



**Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru
The National Assembly for Wales**

**Cofnod y Trafodion
The Record of Proceedings**

**Dydd Mercher, 16 Ebrill 2008
Wednesday, 16 April 2008**

Cynnwys
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Yn y golofn chwith, cofnodwyd y trafodion yn yr iaith y llefarwyd hwy ynndi yn y Siambr.
Yn y golofn dde, cynhwyswyd cyfieithiad o'r areithiau hynny.

In the left-hand column, the proceedings are recorded in the language in which they were spoken in the Chamber. In the right-hand column, a translation of those speeches has been included.

*Cyfarfu'r Cynulliad am 12.30 p.m. gyda'r Llywydd (Dafydd Elis-Thomas) yn y Gadair.
The Assembly met at 12.30 p.m. with the Presiding Officer (Dafydd Elis-Thomas) in the Chair.*

Y Llywydd: Galwaf y Cynulliad i drefn.

The Presiding Officer: I call the Assembly to order.

Cwestiynau i'r Gweinidog dros Gyllid a Chyflenwi Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus Questions to the Minister for Finance and Public Service Delivery

Good Quality Public Services

Q1 Janice Gregory: Will the Minister give a progress report on Welsh Assembly Government initiatives to deliver good quality public services in Wales? OAQ(3)0292(FPS)

Q11 Janice Gregory: Will the Minister make a statement on his main priorities for public service delivery? OAQ(3)0293(FPS)

The Minister for Finance and Public Service Delivery (Andrew Davies): Following the Beecham review, we have established six pilot local service boards. The boards have been developing their governance arrangements, working practices and their first delivery projects. These are now being converted into pilot local delivery agreements, identifying citizen outcomes, milestones and performance measures for each project.

Janice Gregory: Thank you for that clear overview. However, at the same time, I think that it is fair to say that most people will judge the delivery of public services according to their everyday experiences of issues such as safety and the cleanliness of their streets. Will you join me in welcoming the pledges of Bridgend Labour councillors to reverse the cuts in investment in road safety improvements and to keep the weekly refuse collections? [*Interruption.*]

The Presiding Officer: Order. The Minister is well aware of what he can and cannot say. Mr Melding, you are not the Presiding Officer yet.

Andrew Davies: What the people of Wales

Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus o Ansawdd Da

C1 Janice Gregory: A wnaiff y Gweinidog roi adroddiad cynnydd am gynlluniau Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru i ddarparu gwasanaethau cyhoeddus o ansawdd da yng Nghymru? OAQ(3)0292(FPS)

C11 Janice Gregory: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am ei brif flaenoriaethau ar gyfer darparu gwasanaethau cyhoeddus? OAQ(3)0293

Y Gweinidog dros Gyllid a Chyflenwi Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus (Andrew Davies): Yn dilyn adolygiad Beecham, yr ydym wedi sefydlu chwe bwrdd gwasanaethau lleol peilot. Mae'r byrddau wedi bod yn datblygu eu trefniadau llywodraethu, eu harferion gweithio a'u prosiectau cyflenwi cyntaf. Mae'r rhain yn awr yn cael eu newid yn gytundebau cyflenwi lleol peilot, gan nodi'r canlyniadau i ddinasyddion, cerrig milltir a mesuriadau perfformiad ar gyfer pob prosiect.

Janice Gregory: Diolch ichi am y trosolwg clir hwnnw. Fodd bynnag, ar yr un pryd, credaf ei bod yn deg dweud y bydd mwyafrif y bobl yn barnu'r modd y cyflenwir gwasanaethau cyhoeddus ar sail eu profiadau bob dydd o faterion megis diogelwch a glendid eu strydoedd. A ymunwch â mi i groesawu addewidion cynghorwyr Llafur Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr i wrthdroi'r toriadau a wnaethpwyd mewn buddsoddiad i wella diogelwch ar y ffyrdd ac i gadw'r gwasanaeth casglu sbwriel wythnosol? [*Torri ar draws.*]

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Gŵyr y Gweinidog yn iawn beth y caiff ei ddweud a beth na chaiff ei ddweud. Mr Melding, nid ydych yn Llywydd eto.

Andrew Davies: Dros y pedair blynedd

have realised over the last four years is that if you get Liberal-Democrat-run councils, you get extremely poor financial management and also—[*Interruption.*]

I must say, Presiding Officer, I do not think that the Liberal Democrats who are sitting behind me like hearing the truth. [*Interruption.*]

The Presiding Officer: Order.

Andrew Davies: You always find it in election campaigns: they say one thing to get into power, but once they are in power, you find that they deliver the opposite of what they claimed. When you have the very unfortunate experience of having a Liberal Democrat-run council, you get extremely poor financial management and poor delivery of services. If you look at the objective assessment of the local performance data, which is published annually, you will see that the four Liberal-Democrat-run councils, unfortunately including yours in Bridgend, Janice, are the worst run. The worst of all is Cardiff County Council, which is probably the worst-performing council in Wales. The common theme is that they are all run by the Liberal Democrats.

Janice Gregory: I agree wholeheartedly with what you have just said, Minister. That will come as no surprise to our Liberal Democrat colleagues in the Chamber. The Liberal-Democrat-and-Tory-run council in Bridgend charges my most vulnerable citizens £11 an hour for homecare—£22 a day for a normal two-hour session—while my constituents in the neighbouring, Labour-led Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council area are charged only £16.20 a week.

Andrew Davies: That is exactly as I said: you get a potent and toxic mix of poor financial management and poor service delivery. That is the case in your local authority area and in Swansea, where the

diwethaf mae pobl Cymru wedi sylweddoli, os cewch gynghorau a redir gan y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol, cewch reolaeth ariannol arbennig o wael, a hefyd—[*Torri ar draws.*]

Rhaid imi ddweud Lywydd, ni chredaf fod y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol sy'n eistedd y tu ôl imi yn hoffi clywed y gwir. [*Torri ar draws.*]

Y Llywydd: Trefn.

Andrew Davies: Bydd hynny'n digwydd yn fynych mewn ymgyrchoedd etholiadol: byddant yn dweud un peth er mwyn cael grym, ond pan fyddant mewn grym, gwelwch eu bod yn darparu pethau sy'n groes i'r hyn yr oeddent yn ei addo. Pan gewch y profiad hynod anffodus o gael cyngor a redir gan y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol, cewch reolaeth ariannol arbennig o wael a chaiff gwasanaethau eu cyflenwi'n wael. Os edrychwch ar yr asesiad gwrthrychol o'r data perfformiad lleol, a gyhoeddir yn flynyddol, gwelwch mai'r pedwar cyngor a redir gan y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol—gan gynnwys eich cyngor chi ym Mhen-y-bont ar Ogwr Janice yn anffodus—yw'r cynghorau sy'n cael eu rhedeg waethaf. Cyngor Sir Caerdydd yw'r cyngor gwaethaf un, sef y cyngor sy'n perfformio waethaf yng Nghymru fwy na thebyg. Y thema gyffredin yw bod pob un ohonynt yn cael eu rhedeg gan y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol.

Janice Gregory: Cytunaf gant y cant â'r hyn yr ydych newydd ei ddweud Weinidog. Ni fydd hynny'n destun syndod ymhlith ein cyd-Aelodau o blaid y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol yn y Siambr. Mae'r cyngor a redir gan y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol a'r Toriaid ym Mhen-y-bont ar Ogwr yn codi tâl o £11 yr awr ar fy ninasyddion mwyaf agored i niwed am ofal cartref—£22 y dydd am sesiwn arferol ddwy awr o hyd—tra mae fy etholwyr yn ardal gyfagos Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Rhondda Cynon Taf yn talu dim ond £16.20 yr wythnos.

Andrew Davies: Dyna'n union ddywedais i: cewch gymysgedd grymus a pheryglus o reolaeth ariannol wael a gwasanaethau a gyflenwir yn wael. Dyna'r sefyllfa yn eich ardal awdurdod lleol chi ac yn Abertawe, lle

local authority has borrowed up to its limit and has wasted £83 million on a failed IT system. You name any local authority in Wales that is run by the Liberal Democrats and you will find poor service delivery in that area.

The Presiding Officer: Order. We were in fact dealing with two questions from Janice Gregory. Question 1 was grouped with question 11. References were made to the Liberal Democrats, and I would be happy to call a Liberal Democrat to speak, if there is a volunteer.

The Leader of the Welsh Liberal Democrat Group (Michael German): Perhaps I could ask the Minister, since he is in favour of the truth, to tell us what the record on council tax expenditure is in Wales for the Labour authorities, the Plaid Cymru authority, the Conservative authorities, the independent authorities and the Liberal Democrat authorities collectively. Who has produced the lowest council tax level in Wales of those five?

Andrew Davies: As the Minister for finance, I have always been very clear that it is not about what you spend, but what you deliver. In terms of service delivery, as I said, Liberal-Democrat-run councils create a toxic mix of poor financial management and poor service delivery. The people of Wales will have a choice on 1 May, but whenever I hear the rabble behind me—[*Interruption.*]

The Presiding Officer: Order. The Minister is answering a question.

Andrew Davies: Whenever I hear the rabble behind me from the Liberal Democrats, I am reminded of Luigi Pirandello's famous play *Six Characters in Search of an Author*. In the Liberal Democrats' case, it is six Assembly Members in search of a leader.

Alun Ffred Jones: Ceisiaf fynd i ffwrdd o Pirandello, er y byddai'n ddigon difyr cael

mae'r awdurdod lleol wedi benthyca cymaint ag sy'n bosibl, ac wedi gwastraffu £83 miliwn ar system Technoleg Gwybodaeth sydd wedi ffaelu. Enwch unrhyw awdurdod lleol yng Nghymru a redir gan y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol, a chewch wasanaethau a gyflenwir yn wael yn yr ardal honno.

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Yr oeddem yn ymdrin mewn gwirionedd â dau gwestiwn gan Janice Gregory. Yr oedd cwestiwn 1 wedi'i gyfuno â chwestiwn 11. Cyfeiriwyd at y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol, a byddwn yn fodlon galw ar un o'r Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol i siarad, os oes gwirfoddolwr.

Arweinydd Grŵp Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru (Michael German): Efallai y gallwn ofyn i'r Gweinidog, gan ei fod o blaid y gwirionedd, ddweud wrthym beth yw gwariant treth gyngor awdurdodau Llafur, awdurdod Plaid Cymru, awdurdodau'r Ceidwadwyr, yr awdurdodau annibynnol ac awdurdodau'r Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol yng Nghymru gyda'i gilydd. Pwy sydd wedi cynhyrchu'r lefel treth gyngor isaf yng Nghymru o blith y pump hynny?

Andrew Davies: Fel y Gweinidog dros gyllid, yr wyf bob amser wedi bod yn glir iawn nad faint a wariwch sy'n bwysig, ond beth a gyflenwch. O ran cyflenwi gwasanaethau, fel y dywedais, mae cynghorau a redir gan y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol yn creu cymysgedd peryglus o reolaeth ariannol wael a gwasanaethau'n cael eu cyflenwi'n wael. Bydd gan bobl Cymru ddewis ar 1 Mai, ond pa bryd bynnag y clywaf y ciwed y tu ôl imi—[*Torri ar draws.*]

Y Llywydd: Trefn. Mae'r Gweinidog yn ateb cwestiwn.

Andrew Davies: Pa bryd bynnag y clywaf y ciwed o Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol y tu ôl imi, fe'm hatgoffir o ddrama enwog Luigi Pirandello, *Six Characters in Search of an Author*. Yn achos y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol, ceir chwe Aelod o'r Cynulliad yn chwilio am arweinydd.

Alun Ffred Jones: I will try to get away from Pirandello, although it would be

sgwrs amdano. Yn ôl adroddiadau yn y wasg, mae'r Gweinidog dros Gyfiawnder Cymdeithasol a Llywodraeth Leol wedi dweud y bydd yn rhaid ailstrwythuro llywodraeth leol os na fydd yn cyrraedd targedau perfformiad sy'n dderbyniol i'r Llywodraeth. A oes amserlen i hynny ac, os felly, sut y byddai'r ailstrwythuro hwnnw yn digwydd?

Andrew Davies: I am pleased that you asked that question, because what the Minister for Social Justice and Local Government actually said was no more than what was said by Sir Jeremy Beecham when he reported on his review of Government performance in Wales. He said—and the Welsh Local Government Association has accepted this, and the leader, Councillor Derek Vaughan, has repeated it—that there is a window of opportunity for local authorities in Wales and the public sector in general to raise its game. There is unacceptable variation in delivery across a whole range of services and also between local authorities, which I have called a postcode lottery; I believe that it is unacceptable. Sir Jeremy Beecham said that if we are not able to raise our game collectively through the current voluntary collaborative arrangements through 'Making the Connections' and the development of local service boards, we will need to review the structure of local government—or any other public body, including the health service and the Assembly Government. However, it is premature to talk about local government reorganisation until we have had the opportunity, under the Beecham agenda, collectively to raise our game.

David Melding: Minister, one of the Beecham review's central recommendations was that we need to develop a mixed economy for public service delivery in Wales. Is it the policy of the One Wales Government that that mixed economy cannot include the private sector?

Andrew Davies: You and your colleagues keep asking the same question, but you will get the same answer to it, namely that there is a mixed economy at the moment. In many

interesting to have a discussion about him. According to reports in the press, the Minister for Social Justice and Local Government has said that local government will have to be restructured if it does not reach the performance targets that are acceptable to the Government. Is there a timetable for that and, if so, how would that restructuring come about?

Andrew Davies: Yr wyf yn falch ichi ofyn y cwestiwn hwnnw, oherwydd nid oedd yr hyn a ddywedodd y Gweinidog dros Gyfiawnder Cymdeithasol a Llywodraeth Leol yn ddim gwahanol i'r hyn a ddywedodd Syr Jeremy Beecham mewn gwirionedd pan adroddodd am ei adolygiad o berfformiad y Llywodraeth yng Nghymru. Dywedodd—ac mae Cymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru wedi derbyn hyn, ac mae ei harweinydd, y Cynghorydd Derek Vaughan, wedi'i ailadrodd—bod cyfle i awdurdodau lleol yng Nghymru a'r sector cyhoeddus yn gyffredinol wella'u perfformiad. Ceir gwahaniaeth annerbyniol o ran cyflenwi ar draws ystod eang o wasanaethau a hefyd rhwng awdurdodau lleol. Yr wyf wedi galw hyn yn loteri cod post; credaf ei fod yn annerbyniol. Yn ôl Syr Jeremy Beecham, oni allwn wella ein perfformiad gyda'n gilydd drwy'r trefniadau cydweithredol gwirfoddol sy'n bodoli ar hyn o bryd drwy 'Creu'r Cysylltiadau', a datblygu byrddau gwasanaethau lleol, bydd angen inni adolygu strwythur llywodraeth leol—neu unrhyw gorff cyhoeddus arall, gan gynnwys y gwasanaeth iechyd a Llywodraeth y Cynulliad. Fodd bynnag, mae'n gynnwys sôn am aildrefnu llywodraeth leol nes ein bod wedi cael y cyfle, dan agenda Beecham, i wella ein perfformiad gyda'n gilydd.

David Melding: Weinidog, un o argymhellion canolog adolygiad Beecham oedd bod angen inni ddatblygu economi gymysg ar gyfer cyflenwi gwasanaethau cyhoeddus yng Nghymru. A yw peidio â chynnwys y sector preifat mewn economi gymysg yn un o bolisiau Llywodraeth Cymru'n Un?

Andrew Davies: Yr ydych chi a'ch cyd-Aelodau'n dal i ofyn yr un cwestiwn, ond yr un ateb a gewch, sef y ceir economi gymysg ar hyn o bryd. Mewn nifer o achosion, y

cases, services are delivered by the third, or voluntary, sector. The Care and Repair operation in my constituency, for example, which I have visited, works collaboratively with the local authority in terms of the disabled facilities grant. Many public sector services in Wales are already involved in the private sector, whether that is in the direct delivery of services or the use of technology or services that the private sector provides. We have ruled out the use of private finance initiative in the health service, but, as we have said before, there is the potential for involvement and actual involvement by the private sector. For example, in terms of social housing, the ability of housing associations to raise finance on the financial market is an involvement with the private sector. We see no reason why that mixed-economy model should not continue to develop.

Improving Public Service Delivery

Q2 Nick Ramsay: Will the Minister make a statement on improving public service delivery in Wales? OAQ(3)0260(FPS)

Andrew Davies: A key priority for us is delivering public services that place the needs of all citizens and communities at the heart of how services are designed and delivered. We want public services to show consistent improvement, to become better co-ordinated and to be more innovative, and, of course, accountable.

Nick Ramsay: On the future of local government and the organisation of it in Wales—and I am aware that you are not the Minister for Social Justice and Local Government—if we are interested in improving public service delivery, the structure of local authorities is part of that. You said in a previous answer that your colleague, the Minister for Social Justice and Local Government, is merely reiterating what Sir Jeremy Beecham has said, but I would take issue with that, because the emphasis is changing. Do you agree that the important task that we face is to see that we put the emphasis on improving service delivery in

trydydd sector neu'r sector gwirfoddol sy'n cyflenwi gwasanaethau. Mae gwasanaeth Gofal ac Atgyweirio yn fy etholaeth i, er enghraifft, ac yr wyf wedi ymweld ag ef, ac y mae'n gweithio ar y cyd gyda'r awdurdod lleol o ran y grant cyfleusterau i'r anabl. Mae nifer o wasanaethau'r sector cyhoeddus yng Nghymru eisoes yn ymwneud â'r sector preifat, boed hynny wrth gyflenwi gwasanaethau'n uniongyrchol neu drwy ddefnyddio technoleg neu wasanaethau a ddarperir gan y sector preifat. Yr ydym wedi cael gwared ar ddefnyddio menter cyllid preifat yn y gwasanaeth iechyd, ond, fel y dywedwyd yn y gorffennol, ceir potensial, a hwnnw'n botensial gwirioneddol, i'r sector preifat gyfrannu. Er enghraifft, o ran tai cymdeithasol, mae cymdeithasau tai yn ymwneud â'r sector preifat i gynyddu arian ar y farchnad ariannol. Ni welwn ddim rheswm pam na ddylai'r model economi gymysg barhau i ddatblygu.

Gwella Darpariaeth Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus

C2 Nick Ramsay: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am wella darpariaeth gwasanaethau cyhoeddus yng Nghymru? OAQ(3)0260(FPS)

Andrew Davies: Mae cyflenwi gwasanaethau cyhoeddus sy'n rhoi anghenion pob dinesydd a phob cymuned wrth wraidd y modd y caiff gwasanaethau eu dylunio a'u cyflenwi yn un o'n prif flaenoriaethau. Yr ydym eisiau i wasanaethau cyhoeddus wella'n gyson, bod yn fwy cydlynol ac yn fwy arloesol, ac wrth gwrs, yn fwy atebol.

Nick Ramsay: Parthed dyfodol llywodraeth leol a'i threfniadaeth yng Nghymru—a gwn nad chi yw'r Gweinidog dros Gyfiawnder Cymdeithasol a Llywodraeth Leol—os oes gennym ddiddordeb mewn gwella'r modd y cyflenwir gwasanaethau cyhoeddus, mae strwythur awdurdodau lleol yn rhan o hynny. Dywedasoeh mewn ateb blaenorol nad yw eich cyd-Weinidog, y Gweinidog dros Gyfiawnder Cymdeithasol a Llywodraeth Leol, yn gwneud dim ond ailadrodd yr hyn a ddywedodd Syr Jeremy Beecham, ond byddwn yn anghytuno â hynny, oherwydd mae'r pwyslais yn newid. A gytunwch mai'r dasg bwysig a wynebwn yw sicrhau y

Wales and not going through a shake up, which would be of enormous cost and which the people of Wales would end up footing the bill for? It would be unnecessary and it would put local authorities in Wales into a chaotic situation

rhoddwn y pwyslais ar wella'r modd y cyflenwir gwasanaethau yng Nghymru, ac nid gwneud newidiadau sylweddol a fyddai'n gostus tu hwnt, a phobl Cymru fyddai'n talu'r bil? Byddai'n ddiangen a byddai'n rhoi awdurdodau lleol yng Nghymru mewn sefyllfa hebulous.

12.40 p.m.

Andrew Davies: I am unsure as to what you are taking issue with. Are you taking issue with what Jeremy Beecham was recommending, or with what Brian Gibbons and I have said in the last week? Our position has not changed. As I said in my answer to Alun Ffred Jones, our position remains the same. We need, collectively, to raise our game. There is unacceptable variation in the delivery of services, whether it is in the quality of the local road network, the time taken by local authorities to deal with housing repairs, or even the delivery of the disabled facilities grant. The best performing local authority delivers the disabled facilities grant in 318 days. The worst performing local authority delivers it in 1,112 days. I am sure that I am not the only Assembly Member who has a constituent who has died before their disabled facilities grant has been delivered. I know that the leader of the Liberal Democrats has often praised localism, but did the voters of those councils vote for it to take three years for disabled facilities grants to be delivered? I do not think so. We want to recognise local decision making where possible but we also need to ensure that high quality public services are delivered wherever you live in Wales and that they are not subject to a postcode lottery.

Andrew Davies: Nid wyf yn siŵr â beth yr ydych yn anghytuno. A ydych yn anghytuno â'r hyn yr oedd Jeremy Beecham yn ei awgrymu, ynteu â'r hyn y mae Brian Gibbons a minnau wedi'i ddweud yn ystod yr wythnos diwethaf? Nid yw ein safbwynt wedi newid. Fel y dywedais yn fy ateb i Alun Ffred Jones, erys ein safbwynt. Mae angen inni, gyda'n gilydd, wella ein perfformiad. Ceir gwahaniaethau annerbiniol o ran y modd y cyflenwir gwasanaethau, boed y rheini yn wahaniaethau o ran ansawdd y rhwydwaith ffyrdd lleol, yr amser a gymer awdurdodau lleol i ddelio ag atgyweiriadau i'r tŷ, neu hyd yn oed y modd y cyflenwir y grant cyfleusterau i'r anabl. Mae'r awdurdod lleol sy'n perfformio orau yn cyflenwi'r grant cyfleusterau i'r anabl mewn 318 diwrnod. Mae'r awdurdod lleol sy'n perfformio waethaf yn ei gyflenwi mewn 1,112 diwrnod. Yr wyf yn siŵr nad fi yw'r unig Aelod o'r Cynulliad a chanddo etholwr sydd wedi marw cyn cael y grant cyfleusterau i'r anabl. Gwn fod arweinydd y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol wedi canmol brogarwch yn aml, ond a bleidleisiodd pleidleiswyr y cynghorau hyn dros gymryd tair blynedd i'r grantiau cyfleusterau i'r anabl gael eu cyflenwi? Ni chredaf. Yr ydym yn dymuno cydnabod gwneud penderfyniadau'n lleol lle bydd yn bosibl, ond mae angen inni hefyd sicrhau y caiff gwasanaethau cyhoeddus o ansawdd uchel eu cyflenwi lle bynnag yr ydych yn byw yng Nghymru, ac nad ydynt yn amodol ar loteri cod post.

David Lloyd: A ydyw'r Gweinidog yn cytuno y byddai cael llai o fyrddau iechyd lleol yn gwella'r ddarpariaeth gwasanaethau i'r claf yn lleol?

David Lloyd: Does the Minister agree that having fewer local health boards would improve the provision of services for the patient on a local level?

Andrew Davies: It is important that we do not just look at the structures. Part of the problem is that we have an obsession with structures. There has been much discussion in

Andrew Davies: Mae'n bwysig nad ydym yn edrych ar y strwythurau yn unig. Ein hobsesiwn â strwythurau yw rhan o'r broblem. Cafwyd llawer o drafod yn ystod yr

the last week—quite erroneously, as I pointed out—about structures. For me, it is about outcomes. We can have larger or smaller units; that is not the most important matter for me. It is about how we focus deliberately on the delivery of services. We know that, in many cases, it is only by working collaboratively across departments and different organisations that we can deal with knotty issues, whether it is delayed transfers of care, affordable housing or some of the other areas of key policy delivery. Therefore, for me, it is not so much about organisational structures but democratic accountability and, above all, focusing on what the citizen needs and wants.

Procurement Opportunities for Welsh Businesses

Q3 Jeff Cuthbert: What is the Welsh Assembly Government doing to improve public sector procurement opportunities for Welsh businesses? OAQ(3)0295(FPS)

Andrew Davies: Through the business procurement taskforce, which I chair, and the work of Value Wales in my department, we are working closely with business and the public sector to create a level playing field for Welsh companies to better access public sector procurement opportunities. For example, our ‘Opening Doors’ charter sets out this commitment to create a fair and open procurement environment in Wales.

Jeff Cuthbert: What more could be done, especially by local authorities, to allow local businesses, such as local food producers, to tender for more public sector contracts with particular regard to the issue of food miles?

Andrew Davies: This is one area where we can demonstrate significant progress. Through the work of Value Wales, working with local authorities individually and collectively through the Welsh Local Government Association, we have moved quite a considerable way in terms of schools procuring local food from local suppliers,

wythnos diwethaf—a hynny’n ddiangen, fel y dywedais—am strwythurau. I mi, canlyniadau yw’r flaenoriaeth. Gallwn gael unedau mwy neu lai; nid hwnnw yw’r mater pwysicaf i mi. Sut yr ydym yn canolbwyntio’n fwriadol ar gyflenwi gwasanaethau sy’n bwysig. Mewn llawer o achosion, gwyddom mai dim ond drwy adrannau a gwahanol sefydliadau’n gweithio ar y cyd y gallwn ddelio â materion anodd, boed y materion hynny’n ymwneud ag oedi wrth drosglwyddo gofal, tai fforddiadwy neu rywfaint o feysydd eraill ym maes cyflenwi polisïau allweddol. Felly, i mi, nid yw’n ymwneud cymaint â hynny â strwythurau trefniadaol—mae’n ymwneud ag atebolrwydd democrataidd, ac, yn anad dim, mae’n ymwneud â chanolbwyntio ar yr hyn y mae ei angen a’i eisiau ar y dinesydd.

Cyfleoedd Caffael ar gyfer Busnesau Cymru

C3 Jeff Cuthbert: Beth mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru’n ei wneud i wella cyfleoedd caffael yn y sector cyhoeddus ar gyfer busnesau Cymru? OAQ(3)0295(FPS)

Andrew Davies: Drwy gyfrwng y tasglu caffael busnes yr wyf fi’n gadeirydd arno, a gwaith Gwerth Cymru yn fy adran, yr ydym yn gweithio’n glòs gyda’r sector cyhoeddus a chyda’r sector busnes i alluogi cwmnïau Cymru i gael chwarae teg o ran cael mynediad at gyfleoedd caffael yn y sector cyhoeddus. Er enghraifft, mae ein siarter ‘Agor Drysau’ yn gosod allan yr ymrwymiad hwn i greu amgylchedd caffael agored a theg yng Nghymru.

Jeff Cuthbert: Beth mwy y gellid ei wneud, yn enwedig gan awdurdodau lleol, i ganiatáu i fusnesau lleol, megis cynhyrchwyr bwyd lleol, dendro am fwy o gontractau’r sector cyhoeddus, gyda golwg penodol ar filltiroedd bwyd?

Andrew Davies: Mae hwn yn un maes lle gallwn ddangos cynnydd sylweddol. Drwy gyfrwng gwaith Gwerth Cymru, gweithio gydag awdurdodau lleol yn unigol ac ar y cyd drwy Gymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru, yr ydym wedi mynd cryn bellter o ran ysgolion yn caffael bwyd lleol gan gyflenwyr lleol, boed hynny’n cael ei wneud drwy law

whether that is through local farmers directly or through wholesalers. That is a significant achievement. If it would be helpful, I would be happy to write to you, Jeff, about what has happened in this particular area and to make that material available to Members. It is a win-win situation: it is an economic win for local producers and suppliers, but it is also a win in environmental terms, as you said, as road miles are reduced.

Darren Millar: What are you doing to help the many small and medium-sized firms in Wales that are unable to tender for business with the public sector due to their hands being tied by the requirement of turnover thresholds? Recently, a local construction firm in my constituency, which was easily able to deliver a project that it wanted to tender for at Ysbyty Clwyd, was prevented from doing so due to the new NHS procurement arrangements. The contract was eventually awarded to a Dutch company.

Andrew Davies: Having a buy-Welsh policy would contravene European legislation. However, what we can do—and what I intend to do—is create a level playing field. I cannot comment on your specific example, but if you could write to me about that, Darren, I will follow the issue up. What we have done, through a wide range of measures, is bring the purchaser, namely the public sector, together with the producer or supplier. In fact, less than five years ago, a third of the annual figure of about £4.5 billion for public sector procurement of goods and services was being won by Wales-based companies; today, that figure is 49 per cent. That represents a significant amount of additional business being won by Welsh companies. We have calculated that every 1 per cent of additional expenditure won by Welsh businesses leads to an extra 2,000 jobs. Therefore, our procurement policies have led to the historically low levels of unemployment in Wales.

Bethan Jenkins: Weinidog, byddwch yn ymwybodol o'r consŷrn mawr sydd yng Nghymru yn sgil penderfyniad Llywodraeth San Steffan i ddod â grant Bwyd o Brydain i

fffermwyr lleol yn uniongyrchol neu drwy gyfanwerthwyr. Mae hynny'n dipyn o gamp. Byddwn yn fodlon ysgrifennu atoch Jeff, petai hynny o fudd ichi, ynghylch yr hyn sydd wedi digwydd yn y maes penodol hwn, ac i ddarparu'r deunydd hwnnw ar gyfer Aelodau. Bydd pawb ar eu hennill: bydd cyflenwyr a chynhyrchwyr lleol ar eu hennill yn economaidd, a bydd yr amgylchedd ar ei hennill hefyd, fel y dywedaso, oherwydd y bydd llai o deithio ar y ffyrdd.

Darren Millar: Beth a wnewch i gynorthwyo'r nifer o gwmnïau bach a chanolig eu maint yng Nghymru na allant dendro am fusnes gyda'r sector cyhoeddus gan eu bod wedi'u rhwymo dan ofyniad trothwyon trosiant? Yn ddiweddar, cafodd cwmni adeiladu lleol yn fy etholaeth ei atal rhag tendro am brosiect yn Ysbyty Clwyd—prosiect y gallai fod wedi'i ddarparu'n rhwydd—oherwydd trefniadau caffael newydd y GIG. Rhoddwyd y contract i gwmni o'r Iseldiroedd yn y pen draw.

Andrew Davies: Byddai polisi lle mae'n rhaid prynu cynnyrch o Gymru yn mynd yn groes i ddeddfwriaeth Ewrop. Fodd bynnag, yr hyn y gallwn ei wneud—ac y bwriadaf ei wneud—yw creu maes chwarae gwastad. Ni allaf wneud sylw am eich enghraifft benodol, ond ysgrifennwch ataf ynghylch hynny, Darren, ac af ar drywydd y mater. Yr hyn yr ydym wedi'i wneud, drwy ystod helaeth o fesurau, yw dod â'r prynwr, sef y sector cyhoeddus, at y cynhyrchydd neu gyflenwr. Yn wir, lai na phum mlynedd yn ôl yr oedd traean y ffigur blynyddol o oddeutu £4.5 biliwn ar gyfer caffael nwyddau a gwasanaethau yn y sector cyhoeddus yn cael ei ennill gan gwmnïau yng Nghymru; heddiw, mae'r ffigur hwnnw'n 49 y cant. Mae hynny'n swm arwyddocaol o fusnes ychwanegol yn cael ei ennill gan gwmnïau Cymreig. Yr ydym wedi cyfrifo bod pob 1 y cant o wariant ychwanegol a enillir gan fusnesau Cymreig yn esgor ar 2,000 o swyddi ychwanegol. Felly, mae ein polisïau caffael wedi arwain at lefelau isel hanesyddol o ran diweithdra yng Nghymru.

Bethan Jenkins: Minister, you will be aware of the great concern that there is in Wales about the decision by the Westminster Government to bring the grant for Food from

ben o'r flwyddyn nesaf. Pa gynrychiolaethau ydych wedi'u gwneud i Lywodraeth San Steffan ynghylch hyn, a beth yw eich barn am y ffaith y gallai danseilio'r diwydiant bwyd yng Nghymru?

Andrew Davies: My colleague, Elin Jones, Minister for Rural Affairs, has raised her concerns about this with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. The impact of Food from Britain has been—and I will not say very limited—less than that of our own efforts in promoting Welsh produce. In the past, the grant has been used to pay for consultants, but the Assembly Government, and, before it, the Welsh Development Agency have done a considerable amount of work to promote Welsh produce. When I was travelling across the world in my former role as Minister for Enterprise, Innovation and Networks, as the Deputy First Minister does now, there were ample opportunities to promote Welsh produce, particularly Welsh food. I know that Carwyn Jones, the former Minister for Environment, Planning and Countryside, did the same, and Elin Jones, the current Minister for Rural Affairs, has been promoting Welsh meat in the middle east, in places such as Dubai. Through our own efforts, we have been promoting Welsh food very successfully. Nevertheless, we have been critical of, or rather we have expressed concerns about, this decision. However, we think that it affects what we do only at the margins.

Eleanor Burnham: To return to procurement, particularly with regard to the North Wales Trunk Road Agency, I have written to the Deputy First Minister on this—and I realise that this is not on your agenda. What are you doing to help proficient companies with the procurement process? The particular company that I have in mind is in Flintshire; it has about 60 years' experience, but it has come up against a brick wall at the first hurdle. I find it puzzling that such competent people fall at the first hurdle. What can you, as a Government, do to ensure that the North Wales Trunk Road Agency, which I presume is led by the Gwynedd Consultancy, helps rather than hinders in

Britain to an end from next year. What representations have you made to the Westminster Government about that, and what is your opinion on the fact that it could undermine the food industry in Wales?

Andrew Davies: Mae fy nghyd Aelod, Elin Jones, y Gweinidog dros Faterion Gwledig, wedi lleisio ei phryderon ynglŷn â hyn gydag Adran yr Amgylchedd, Bwyd a Materion Gwledig. Mae effaith Bwyd o Brydain wedi bod—ac ni ddywedaf yn gyfyngedig iawn—yn llai na'n hymdrechion ni ein hunain yn hyrwyddo cynnyrch Cymreig. Yn y gorffennol, defnyddiwyd y grant i dalu am ymgynghorwyr, ond mae Llywodraeth y Cynulliad, ac, o'i blaen, Awdurdod Datblygu Cymru, wedi gwneud gwaith da iawn yn hyrwyddo cynnyrch Cymreig. Pan oeddwn yn teithio i bedwar ban byd yn fy swyddogaeth flaenorol fel y Gweinidog dros Fenter, Arloesi a Rhwydweithiau, fel y gwna'r Dirprwy Brif Weinidog yn awr, yr oedd cyfleoedd lu i hyrwyddo cynnyrch Cymreig, yn enwedig bwyd Cymreig. Gwn i Carwyn Jones, y cyn Weinidog dros yr Amgylchedd, Cynllunio a Chefn Gwlad, wneud yr un peth, ac mae Elin Jones, y Gweinidog cyfredol dros Faterion Gwledig, wedi bod yn hyrwyddo cig Cymreig yn y dwyrain canol, mewn lleoedd megis Dubai. Drwy ein hymdrechion ein hun, yr ydym wedi bod yn hyrwyddo bwyd Cymreig yn llwyddiannus iawn. Er hynny, buom yn feirniadol, neu'n hytrach, buom yn lleisio pryderon, ynghylch y penderfyniad hwn. Fodd bynnag, credwn mai dim ond ar y cyrion yr effeithia ar yr hyn a wnawn.

Eleanor Burnham: I ddychwelyd at gaffael, yn enwedig yng nghyswllt Asiantaeth Cefnffyrdd Gogledd Cymru, yr wyf wedi ysgrifennu at y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog ynghylch hyn—a sylweddolaf nad yw hyn ar eich agenda. Beth ydych chi'n ei wneud i helpu cwmnïau hyfedr gyda'r broses gaffael? Mae'r cwmni penodol yr wyf yn sôn amdano yn sir y Fflint; mae ganddo oddeutu 60 blynedd o brofiad, ond trawodd wal frics wrth y rhwystr cyntaf. Ni allaf ddeall sut mae pobl mor hyfedr yn baglu dros y rhwystr cyntaf. Beth allwch chi, fel Llywodraeth, ei wneud i sicrhau bod Asiantaeth Cefnffyrdd Gogledd Cymru, sydd, mi dybiaf, dan arweiniad Ymgynghoriaeth Gwynedd, yn

these matters?

Andrew Davies: As I said to Darren Millar, if you write to me on that, I will take the issue up. However, a huge amount of progress is being made, as evidenced by the proportion of business that is being won by Wales-based businesses. We have a range of measures. For example, we have the websites www.sell2wales.co.uk and www.buy4wales.co.uk, which bring suppliers and purchasers together. There is a range of seminars and programmes, such as meet-the-buyer events, which have brought public sector procurers together with those supplying goods and services. However, we know that we need to do better and we need to simplify the process. If there are unnecessary barriers that prevent Welsh companies accessing business, we will look at them and, where we are able, we will change the way in which procurement contracts are handled.

Budget Priorities

Q4 Paul Davies: Will the Minister make a statement on the Welsh Assembly Government's budget priorities for the next 12 months? OAQ(3)0266(FPS)

Andrew Davies: The Welsh Assembly Government's budget priorities for the period 2008-09 to 2010-11 were laid out in the final budget, which the Assembly approved on 22 January.

12.50 p.m.

Paul Davies: Since the coalition Government was formed last year, it has, on several occasions, agreed to provide financial support to certain areas by funds accumulated from Assembly Government underspends in previous years. This has been authorised by you, Minister. Under the circumstances, will you confirm whether you plan to fund further projects by using Assembly Government underspends in the next 12 months, and, if so, which ones?

Andrew Davies: I cannot give you the detail on all those programmes, but one major

help yn hytrach nag yn llyffethair gyda'r materion hyn?

Andrew Davies: Fel y dywedais wrth Darren Millar, ysgrifennwch ataf, ac af ar drywydd y mater. Fodd bynnag, mae cynnydd aruthrol yn cael ei wneud, fel y profir gan ganran y busnes sy'n cael ei hennill gan fusnesau yng Nghymru. Mae gennym ystod o fesurau. Er enghraifft, mae gennym y gwefannau <https://www.sell2wales.co.uk/index.html?diablo.lang=cym> a <https://www.buy4wales.co.uk/buy4wales.aspx>, sy'n dod â chyflenwyr a phrynwyr at ei gilydd. Ceir ystod o seminarau a rhaglenni, megis digwyddiadau cwrdd â'r prynwr, sydd wedi dod â phrynwyr sector cyhoeddus at y rheini sy'n cyflenwi nwyddau a gwasanaethau. Fodd bynnag, gwyddom fod angen inni wneud yn well ac mae angen inni symleiddio'r broses. Os oes rhwystrau diangen yn atal cwmnïau Cymreig rhag cael busnes, edrychwn arnynt ac, os gallwn, newidiwn y ffordd y delir â chontractau caffael.

Blaenoriaethau'r Gyllideb

C4 Paul Davies: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am flaenoriaethau cyllideb Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru ar gyfer y 12 mis nesaf? OAQ(3)0266(FPS)

Andrew Davies: Pennwyd blaenoriaethau cyllideb Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru am y cyfnod 2008-09 i 2010-11 yn y gyllideb derfynol, a gymeradwywyd gan y Cynulliad ar 22 Ionawr.

Paul Davies: Ers ffurfio'r Llywodraeth glymblaid y llynedd, cytunodd droeon, i roi cefnogaeth ariannol i ardaloedd penodol drwy gronfeydd a gronnwyd yn sgil tanwariant Llywodraeth y Cynulliad mewn blynyddoedd blaenorol. Awdurdodwyd hyn gennych chi, Weinidog. Dan yr amgylchiadau, a wnewch gadarnhau a ydych yn bwriadu cyllido prosiectau pellach drwy ddefnyddio tanwariant Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn y 12 mis nesaf, ac, os ydych, pa rai?

Andrew Davies: Ni allaf roi manylion yr holl raglenni hynny ichi, ond un ymrwymiad o

commitment is the waiting times initiative, which has been funded out of reserves, which are, in effect, part of our accumulated end-year flexibility. I would be more than happy to write you about the use of EYF, as, indeed, I have reported to the Finance Committee.

Mohammad Asghar: We know that small businesses are the backbone of our economy. We are also aware of the importance of our smaller businesses, and one way in which we can help them is to enhance the business rate relief scheme, as contained in 'One Wales'. What level of budget priority is the Government giving to this much-needed scheme?

Andrew Davies: My colleagues, the Deputy First Minister and the Minister for Social Justice and Local Government, have the policy lead in this area. As I said, it is a commitment for the One Wales Government, and we will deliver it over the third Assembly. It is one of our major commitments, and we will honour it. The most important thing for small businesses is to have a good financial and economic foundation, and business rate relief is only one way in which we as a Government, using the levers at our disposal, can help them. However, we need to balance the support that we give through business rate relief to make local companies, whether local food suppliers or whatever, more ambitious, so that they employ more people, grow and maybe export. As I said in reply to Bethan Jenkins just now, we run a range of programmes that will help small and large companies to expand and to be ambitious.

Michael German: I want to ask about the effect of the credit crunch on affordable housing in Wales. Yesterday, I asked the First Minister his view on whether the credit crunch would have an impact on affordable housing, and he said that he believed that it would actually be of benefit, because, as housebuilders would now be building fewer private houses, they would turn to building affordable houses. The problem is that affordable houses cost more to build than private houses, as they must conform to a higher standard. In addition, registered social

bwys yw'r cynllun rhestrau aros, a gyllidwyd drwy arian wrth gefn, sydd, yn y bôn, yn rhan o'n hyblygrwydd diwedd blwyddyn cronedig. Byddwn yn fwy na pharod i ysgrifennu atoch ynghylch defnyddio'r hyblygrwydd hwn fel, yn wir, yr adroddais wrth y Pwyllgor Cyllid.

Mohammad Asghar: Gwyddom mai busnesau bach yw asgwrn cefn ein heconomi. Yr ydym hefyd yn ymwybodol o bwysigrwydd ein busnesau llai, ac un ffordd y gallem eu helpu yw gwella'r cynllun rhyddhad ardrethi busnes, fel y'i cynhwyswyd yn 'Cymru'n Un'. Pa lefel o flaenoriaeth yn y gyllideb y mae'r Llywodraeth yn ei rhoi i'r cynllun hwn sydd fawr ei angen?

Andrew Davies: Fy nghyd Weinidogion, y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog a'r Gweinidog dros Gyfiawnder Cymdeithasol a Llywodraeth Leol, sy'n arwain polisi yn y maes hwn. Fel y dywedais, mae'n ymrwymiad gan Lywodraeth Cymru'n Un, ac fe'i cyflawnwn dros y trydydd Cynulliad. Mae'n un o'n prif ymrwymadau, ac fe'i hanrhydeddwn. Y peth pwysicaf i fusnesau bach ei gael yw sylfaen ariannol ac economaidd gadarn, a dim ond un ffordd y gallwn ni fel Llywodraeth, gan ddefnyddio'r cymhellion sydd gennym, eu helpu yw drwy ryddhad ardrethi busnes. Fodd bynnag, mae angen inni gydbwysu'r gefnogaeth a rown drwy ryddhad ardrethi busnes i wneud cwmnïau lleol, boed hwy'n gyflenwyr bwyd lleol neu beth bynnag, yn fwy cystadleuol, er mwyn iddynt gyflogi mwy o bobl, tyfu ac efallai allforio. Fel y dywedais wrth ateb Bethan Jenkins eiliad yn ôl, yr ydym yn rhedeg ystod o raglenni a fydd yn helpu busnesau bach a mawr i ehangu a bod yn uchelgeisiol.

Michael German: Hoffwn ofyn i chi am effaith y wasgfa gredyd ar dai fforddiadwy yng Nghymru. Ddoe, gofynnais i'r Prif Weinidog am ei farn ynghylch a fyddai'r wasgfa gredyd yn cael effaith ar dai fforddiadwy, a dywedodd ei fod yn credu y byddai, mewn gwirionedd, yn fuddiol, oherwydd, gan y byddai adeiladwyr tai yn awr yn adeiladu llai o dai preifat, y byddent yn troi at adeiladu tai fforddiadwy. Y broblem yw bod tai fforddiadwy'n costio mwy i'w hadeiladu na thai preifat, gan ei bod yn rhaid iddynt gydymffurfio â safon uwch.

landlords and housing associations must borrow money to build, like anyone else, in a market where only half the current number of mortgages will be made available next year. In other words, the credit crunch is also affecting them. Do you agree with the First Minister that the credit crunch is good for affordable housing, because more people will be unable to buy a house, given that mortgage offers will be few and far between? Will it now be a good marketplace? Will we see these affordable houses built, or is the credit crunch actually bad news for everyone looking for housing in Wales?

Andrew Davies: Any major situation, such as the global crisis in the financial markets, presents challenges as well as opportunities, and the First Minister was quite right about that. It is too soon to say whether it will be good news or bad news for affordable housing specifically. It might make it more difficult for registered social landlords to access funding, but that might be cancelled out by the fact that if we, as a Government, are seeking finance in the markets, it will be easier to do so, and Government borrowing is more secure than borrowing from the private sector or other financial institutions. At the moment, it is too soon to say, but I will ask my officials to consider the precise effect of the credit crunch on our activity as a Government, and whether it provides us with opportunities as well as challenges.

Using the Budget Effectively

Q5 Jenny Randerson: How is the Minister making the most effective use of the Welsh Assembly Government's budget? OAQ(3)0284(FPS)

Andrew Davies: We have a robust process for allocating the Assembly Government's budget in line with our strategic priorities. These allocations are regularly monitored and scrutinised to ensure that we continue to use resources to deliver effectively, but we also need to be flexible enough to respond to changing circumstances and new challenges.

Yn ychwanegol at hynny, rhaid i landlordiaid cymdeithasol cofrestredig a chymdeithasau tai fenthyg arian i adeiladu, fel pawb arall, mewn marchnad lle mai dim ond hanner nifer y morgeisi cyfredol a gynigir y flwyddyn nesaf. Mewn geiriau eraill, mae'r wasgfa gredyd hefyd yn effeithio arnynt hwy. A gytunwch â'r Prif Weinidog bod y wasgfa gredyd yn dda i dai fforddiadwy, gan y bydd mwy o bobl yn methu â phrynu tŷ, gan y bydd cynigion morgais yn hynod brin? A fydd hi'n awr yn farchnad dda? A welwn y tai fforddiadwy hyn yn cael eu hadeiladu, neu a yw'r wasgfa gredyd, mewn gwirionedd, yn newyddion drwg i bawb sy'n chwilio am dai yng Nghymru?

Andrew Davies: Mae unrhyw sefyllfa o bwys, megis yr argyfwng byd-eang yn y marchnadoedd ariannol, yn golygu sialensiau yn ogystal â chyfleoedd, ac yr oedd y Prif Weinidog yn llygaid ei le ynglŷn â hynny. Mae'n rhy fuan dweud a fydd yn newyddion da neu ddrwg i dai fforddiadwy'n benodol. Gallai ei gwneud hi'n anos i landlordiaid cymdeithasol cofrestredig gael gafael ar gyllid, ond gellid cydbwysu hynny â'r ffaith os ydym ni, fel Llywodraeth, yn ceisio cyllid yn y marchnadoedd, y bydd yn haws gwneud hynny, ac mae benthyg gan y Llywodraeth yn fwy sicr na benthyg gan y sector preifat neu sefydliadau ariannol eraill. Ar hyn o bryd, mae'n rhy fuan dweud, ond gofynnaf i'm swyddogion ystyried union effaith y wasgfa gredyd ar ein gweithgarwch fel Llywodraeth, ac a yw'n cynnig cyfleoedd i ni yn ogystal â sialensiau.

Defnyddio'r Gyllideb yn Effeithiol

C5 Jenny Randerson: Sut y mae'r Gweinidog yn defnyddio cyllideb Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn y ffordd fwyaf effeithiol? OAQ(3)0284(FPS)

Andrew Davies: Mae gennym broses gadarn ar gyfer dyrannu cyllideb Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn unol â'n blaenoriaethau strategol. Caiff y dyraniadau hyn eu monitro a'u craffu'n rheolaidd i sicrhau ein bod yn parhau i ddefnyddio adnoddau i gyflenwi'n effeithiol, ond mae angen inni hefyd fod yn ddigon hyblyg i ymateb i amgylchiadau newidiol a sialensiau newydd.

Jenny Randerson: A significant slice of your budget goes to local authorities, and, this year, you gave them a smaller slice than was perhaps their fair share. Can you explain why you gave them such a small portion?

I noticed that you were left on your own to answer Janice Gregory's question. You will have to do better in rallying your supporters if you are to pursue your leadership ambitions. I noted your comments on Liberal Democrat-led councils, which sounded to me like the cries of a desperate man who has clearly been out canvassing for the Labour Party for far too long. You have had time to cool off now, Minister, so I give you another opportunity to answer Mike German's question. Will you acknowledge the achievement of the four Liberal Democrat-led councils in Wales in having the lowest average council tax increases across the four years, including this year, and will you congratulate them on their achievement?

Andrew Davies: On your first point, the growth in public expenditure in Wales has reduced, as it has across the United Kingdom. Nevertheless, the growth in public expenditure of 1.8 per cent is still significantly higher than that in Scotland and Northern Ireland. When public finances are tight, the whole of the public sector has to respond in the same way, and local authorities cannot be exempted from that, as I said when we announced the initial draft budget. However, we fund local authorities to a much higher level than the UK Government funds English local authorities, and I would like local government to acknowledge the fact that, as a result, council tax levels in Wales are some 25 per cent lower in Wales than they are in England. The average council tax level across Wales is 3.8 per cent, and all local authorities have been made aware of the financial position.

To come back to my earlier point about service delivery, you keep talking about council tax levels, but I keep saying that it is not about what we spend or what we take in revenue, but about what we deliver. I keep returning to the point that your local authority, I am afraid to say, Jenny, is

Jenny Randerson: Mae elfen arwyddocaol o'ch cyllideb yn mynd i awdurdodau lleol, ac, eleni, rhoddasoch elfen lai na'r hyn oedd yn gyfran deg iddynt. A allwch esbonio pam ichi roi cyfran mor fach iddynt?

Sylwais ichi gael eich gadael ar eich pen eich hun i ateb cwestiwn Janice Gregory. Bydd yn rhaid ichi wneud yn well o ran ennyn ymateb gan eich cefnogwyr os ydych am barhau â'ch uchelgais i arwain. Nodais eich sylwadau am gynghorau sydd dan arweiniad Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol, ac yr oeddent yn fy nharo fel geiriau dyn gorffwyll sydd yn amlwg wedi bod yn canfasio dros y Blaid Lafur am lawer rhy hir. Yr ydych wedi cael amser i ymbwylllo yn awr, Weinidog, felly rhoddaf gyfle arall ichi ateb cwestiwn Mike German. A wnewch gydnabod cyflawniad y pedwar cyngor yng Nghymru sydd dan arweiniad y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol yn sicrhau'r cynnydd cyfartalog isaf yn y dreth gyngor dros bedair blynedd, gan gynnwys eleni, ac a wnewch eu llongyfarch ar eu cyflawniad?

Andrew Davies: Ynglŷn â'ch pwynt cyntaf, mae'r twf mewn gwariant cyhoeddus yng Nghymru wedi lleihau, fel y gwnaeth ledled y Deyrnas Unedig. Er hynny, mae'r twf o 1.8 y cant mewn gwariant cyhoeddus dal yn sylweddol uwch nag ydyw yn yr Alban a Gogledd Iwerddon. Pan fydd cyllid cyhoeddus yn brin, rhaid i'r sector cyhoeddus yn ei gyfanrwydd ymateb yn yr un ffordd, ac ni ellir hepgor awdurdodau lleol o hynny, fel y dywedais pan gyhoeddasom y gyllideb ddrafft gychwynnol. Fodd bynnag, yr ydym yn cyllido awdurdodau lleol i lefel lawer uwch nag y mae Llywodraeth y DU yn cyllido awdurdodau lleol Lloegr, a hoffwn i lywodraeth leol gydnabod y ffaith bod, o ganlyniad, lefelau'r dreth gyngor yng Nghymru oddeutu 25 y cant yn is yng Nghymru nag ydynt yn Lloegr. Lefel gyfartalog y dreth gyngor ledled Cymru yw 3.8 y cant, a gwnaethpwyd pob awdurdod lleol yn ymwybodol o'r sefyllfa ariannol.

I ddod yn ôl at fy mhwynt cynharach ynghylch cyflenwi gwasanaethau, yr ydych yn mynnu sôn o hyd ac o hyd am lefelau'r dreth gyngor, ond daliaf i ddweud nad yw'n ymwneud â faint a wariwn neu faint a dderbyniwn mewn refeniw, ond â'r hyn a gyflenwn. Parhaf i ddychwelyd at y pwynt ei

probably among the worst-performing local authorities on a range of indicators, and I am not sure that the people of Cardiff voted in favour of that in 2004. I am sure that, on 1 May, in Swansea, Bridgend, Cardiff or Wrexham, they will pass judgment on the performance of Liberal Democrat-run councils.

Cross-border Public Services

Q6 Kirsty Williams: Will the Minister make a statement on the delivery of cross-border public services? OAQ(3)0267(FPS)

Andrew Davies: The interests and wellbeing of the people of Wales do not stop at the border. There are all-important networks for cross-border collaboration, which we shall support and develop. There are many examples of our working with partners across boundaries in the interests of the Welsh people.

Kirsty Williams: It was appropriate for you to quote Pirandello earlier, a playwright whose works and writings are characterised by the themes of disillusionment and incompleteness. Rather than searching for authors, or leaders, we in this group want answers from your Government about when you will make it possible for my constituents to use their concessionary bus passes in England as in Wales. We also seek the answer that your colleague, the Minister for transport, could not give last week about whether the scheme that you started for concessionary fares for people using the Heart of Wales line will continue for the remainder of this year. He could not answer that question; will you?

Andrew Davies: We have all been clear that we work as a team in Government, and it is not for me to answer on any issue that is not my responsibility, be it transport, health, local government or education. That is the position that the Government holds, and that is the answer that the Minister for transport has given you. That is the current position.

bod yn debyg bod eich awdurdod lleol chi, mae'n ddrwg gennyf ddweud, Jenny, ymhlith yr awdurdodau lleol sy'n perfformio waethaf gydag ystod o ddangosyddion, ac nid wyf yn sicr a bleidleisiodd pobl Caerdydd o blaid hynny yn 2004. Yr wyf yn sicr, ar 1 Mai, yn Abertawe, Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr, Caerdydd neu Wrecsam, y barnant berfformiad cynghorau a redir gan Ddemocratiaid Rhyddfrydol.

Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus Trawsffiniol

C6 Kirsty Williams: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am ddarpariaeth gwasanaethau cyhoeddus trawsffiniol? OAQ(3)0267(FPS)

Andrew Davies: Nid yw buddiannau a lles pobl Cymru'n dod i ben wrth y ffin. Ceir rhwydweithiau hollbwysig ar gyfer cydweithredu trawsffiniol y byddwn yn eu cefnogi a'u datblygu. Ceir enghreifftiau niferus ohonom yn gweithio gyda phartneriaid ar draws ffiniau er budd pobl Cymru.

Kirsty Williams: Yr oedd yn briodol eich bod yn dyfynnu Pirandello yn gynharach, dramodydd y mae'r themâu dadrithiad ac anghyflawnder yn nodwedd o'i waith a'i ysgrifennu. Yn hytrach na chwilio am awduron, neu arweinwyr, yr ydym ni yn y grŵp hwn eisiau atebion gan eich Llywodraeth ynglŷn â phryd fyddwch yn ei gwneud hi'n bosibl i'm hetholwyr ddefnyddio eu tocynnau bws rhad yn Lloegr yn ogystal ag yng Nghymru. Yr ydym hefyd yn ceisio'r ateb na allai eich cydweinidog, y Gweinidog dros drafnidiaeth, ei roi'r wythnos diwethaf ynghylch a yw'r cynllun a ddechreusoch gyda thocynnau rhatach i bobl a oedd yn defnyddio rheilffordd Calon Cymru yn parhau am weddill eleni. Ni allai ateb y cwestiwn hwnnw; a wnewch chi?

Andrew Davies: Yr ydym oll wedi bod yn glir ein bod yn gweithio fel tîm mewn Llywodraeth, ac nid fy lle i yw ateb unrhyw fater nad yw'n gyfrifoldeb imi, boed hynny'n drafnidiaeth, iechyd, llywodraeth leol neu addysg. Dyna'r safbwynt y mae'r Llywodraeth yn ei arddel, a dyna'r ateb a roddodd y Gweinidog dros drafnidiaeth ichi. Dyna'r safbwynt cyfredol.

Janet Ryder: The west Cheshire/north-east Wales sub-regional spatial plan is having a considerable impact on housing, particularly in the north east of Wales. Housing is being built primarily for the needs of Cheshire. An increasing number of councillors is starting to raise considerable concerns about this plan. What exactly do you know about this plan, and what input has anyone had, or is having, in the development and running of it?

Janet Ryder: Mae cynllun gofodol isranbarthol gorllewin swydd Gaer/gogledd-ddwyrain Cymru yn cael effaith arwyddocaol ar dai, yn enwedig yng ngogledd-ddwyrain Cymru. Mae tai'n cael eu hadeiladu yn bennaf ar gyfer anghenion swydd Gaer. Mae nifer cynyddol o gynghorwyr yn dechrau mynegi pryderon sylweddol ynglŷn â'r cynllun hwn. Beth yn union a wyddoch am y cynllun hwn, a pha fewnbwn y mae unrhyw un wedi ei gael, neu yn ei gael, ynglŷn â'i ddatblygu a'r redeg?

1.00 p.m.

Andrew Davies: My general response is that the cross-border collaboration that we have, through what is called the Mersey Dee Alliance, has been extremely beneficial. It recognises the fact that, in their daily lives, people do not respect administrative boundaries, whether in education, work, leisure or whatever—people move back and forth. The recognition of that fact is inherent in the spatial plan approach.

Andrew Davies: Fy ymateb cyffredinol yw bod y cydweithredu trawsffiniol sydd gennym, drwy'r hyn a elwir yn Gynghrair Mersi a Dyfrdwy, wedi bod yn fanteisiol tu hwnt. Mae'n cydnabod y ffaith nad yw pobl yn parchu ffiniau gweinyddol yn eu bywyd bob dydd, boed mewn addysg, gwaith, hamdden neu beth bynnag—mae pobl yn mynd yn ôl ac ymlaen. Mae cydnabod y ffaith hwnnw'n gynhenid yn null gweithredu'r cynllun gofodol.

On your specific question on housing, either I or the Deputy Minister for Housing, Jocelyn Davies, will write to you on that matter.

O ran eich cwestiwn penodol am dai, byddaf i neu'r Dirprwy Weinidog dros Dai, Jocelyn Davies yn ysgrifennu atoch am y mater hwnnw.

Improving the Performance of Public Services

Gwella Perfformiad Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus

Q7 William Graham: Will the Minister outline the measures taken to improve the performance of public services in South East Wales? OAQ(3)0275(FPS)

C7 William Graham: A wnaiff y Gweinidog amlinellu'r mesurau a gymerwyd i wella perfformiad gwasanaethau cyhoeddus yn Ne-ddwyrain Cymru? OAQ(3)0275(FPS)

Andrew Davies: Do you mean South Wales East?

Andrew Davies: Ai Dwyrain De Cymru yr ydych yn ei feddwl?

William Graham: Yes, if you prefer, Minister.

William Graham: Ie, os yw hynny'n well gennyh, Weinidog.

Andrew Davies: They are different.

Andrew Davies: Maent yn wahanol.

We have set up six pilot local service boards, including one in Caerphilly, to bring together the key public service delivery bodies in each area to improve service delivery and outcomes. We are taking parallel action to ensure that services become more joined-up, citizen focused, efficient, ambitious,

Yr ydym wedi sefydlu chwe bwrdd gwasanaethau lleol peilot, gan gynnwys un yng Nghaerffili, i ddod â'r prif gyrff sy'n cyflenwi gwasanaethau cyhoeddus at ei gilydd ym mhob ardal er mwyn gwella'r modd y cyflenwir gwasanaethau a gwella'r canlyniadau. Yr ydym yn gweithredu'n

innovative and accountable.

William Graham: Is it not the truth that the poor local government settlement for parties across Wales has meant that public service delivery is getting worse, and that, despite your promises here, you have not honoured what you said you were going to do? That will no doubt be reflected on 1 May.

Andrew Davies: I remember that, when I announced the draft budget, it was greeted by some elements in local government as the end of civilisation as we knew it—it was said that there were going to be double-digit council tax rises, huge cuts in services, and massive job losses. However, what happened is that an average increase of 3.8 per cent in council tax levels was set by local authorities across Wales. It is not true that there has been a decline in public service delivery; there has been a consistent improvement across most of the measures. I believe that, at the last count, 75 per cent of measures showed improvement, and 25 per cent did not. However, to come back to my point, there is an unacceptable variation between local authorities in service delivery. I do not believe that the people of Wales will find that acceptable, and they will expect us as a Government, local government, and others, to raise our game.

End-year Flexibility

Q8 Peter Black: Will the Minister make a statement on how much he estimates will be available this year as end-year flexibility? OAQ(3)0263(FPS)

Andrew Davies: I published a written statement on 10 March setting out, among other things, the historic and current stock of end-year flexibility. Final outturn against budget for 2007-08 will not be available until September, once the Assembly Government's consolidated accounts have been finalised.

gyfochrog i sicrhau y bydd gwasanaethau'n dod yn fwy cydgyssylltiedig, yn fwy effeithlon, yn fwy uchelgeisiol, yn fwy arloesol, yn fwy atebol ac yn canolbwyntio mwy ar y cwsmer.

William Graham: Onid yw'n wir bod y setliad llywodraeth leol gwael i bleidiau ledled Cymru wedi golygu bod y modd y cyflenwir gwasanaethau cyhoeddus yn gwaethygu ac nad ydych, er yr addewidion a wnewch yma, wedi anrhydeddu'r hyn y dywedasoch y byddech yn ei wneud? Nid oes amheuaeth na fydd hynny'n cael ei adlewyrchu ar 1 Mai.

Andrew Davies: Pan gyhoeddais y gyllideb ddrafft, cofiaf iddi gael ei chrosawu gan rai elfennau mewn llywodraeth leol fel diwedd gwareiddiad—dywedwyd y byddai codiadau'r dreth gyngor yn ffigurau dwbl, y ceid toriadau enfawr mewn gwasanaethau, ac y byddai llawer iawn o bobl yn colli eu swyddi. Fodd bynnag, yr hyn a ddigwyddodd oedd y pennodd awdurdodau lleol ledled Cymru 3.8 y cant o gynnydd ar gyfartaledd i lefelau'r dreth gyngor. Nid yw'n wir i ddarpariaeth gwasanaethau cyhoeddus ddirywio; mae'r rhan fwyaf o'r mesurau wedi arwain at welliannau cyson. Credaf, yn y cyfrif diwethaf, i 75 y cant o'r mesurau ddangos gwelliannau, ac i 25 y cant beidio â dangos gwelliannau. Fodd bynnag, a dychwelyd at fy mhwynt, ceir gwahaniaeth annerbyniol rhwng awdurdodau lleol o safbwynt cyflenwi gwasanaethau. Ni chredaf y bydd pobl Cymru'n gweld hynny'n dderbyniol, a byddant yn disgwyl i ni fel Llywodraeth, llywodraeth leol, ac eraill, godi ein safonau.

Hyblygrwydd Diwedd Blwyddyn

C8 Peter Black: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am faint y mae'n amcangyfrif a fydd ar gael eleni fel hyblygrwydd diwedd blwyddyn? OAQ(3)0263(FPS)

Andrew Davies: Cyhoeddais ddatganiad ysgrifenedig ar 10 Mawrth yn gosod allan, ymhlith pethau eraill, stoc hyblygrwydd diwedd blwyddyn yn awr ac yn y gorffennol. Ni fydd yr alldro terfynol yn erbyn cyllideb 2007-08 ar gael tan fis Medi, pan fydd cyfrifon cyfunol Llywodraeth y Cynulliad

wedi'u cwblhau.

Peter Black: As we were talking about delivery, do you think that you might make some of that end-year flexibility available to the Minister for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills, who is clearly lacking the funds to properly implement the foundation phase? That initiative, although supported by the vast majority of Members, is not only underfunded but cannot be delivered in several authorities for a lack of funds. Do you not believe that headteachers, parents and pupils, as well as the local authorities, which desperately want to put this policy into effect, deserve for the Assembly to deliver what it promises and fund this policy properly?

Andrew Davies: I take issue with the assertion that this programme is underfunded. It is a major commitment by this Government. With the Minister for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills, we negotiated a substantial investment to show how committed we are to this major Assembly Government commitment. It is a four-year programme, and it has been made clear both by the Minister for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills and the First Minister that this programme will be rolled out over four years.

However, at the same time, the basis for the funding was negotiated with local government, and with the Association of Directors of Education in Wales. The formula that was used, and the funding that followed it, was negotiated and agreed with local government. In some areas of Wales, authorities have accepted the level of funding, and have agreed that. In other areas, directors of education have said that there is insufficient funding, but they agreed the formula. There has been some significant shroud-waving by some directors of education, and I have seen letters that, back in the autumn, quite mistakenly and erroneously, and, I think, quite misleadingly, talked about a cut in Assembly Government funding. As the Minister for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills has demonstrated, we are committed to this programme and we will work with local

Peter Black: Gan inni siarad am gyflenwi, a ydych yn meddwl y gallech sicrhau bod y Gweinidog dros Blant, Addysg, Dysgu Gydol Oes a Sgiliau, sy'n amlwg heb ddigon o arian i roi'r cyfnod sylfaen ar waith yn briodol, yn gallu manteisio ar rywfaint o'r hyblygrwydd diwedd blwyddyn hwnnw? Er i'r cynllun hwnnw gael cefnogaeth mwyafrif helaeth yr Aelodau, nid yn unig y mae'n cael ei danariannu, ni ellir ei gyflenwi mewn amryw o awdurdodau oherwydd diffyg arian. Oni chredwch fod penaethiaid, rhieni a disgyblion, yn ogystal ag awdurdodau lleol, sy'n awyddus tu hwnt i roi'r polisi hwn ar waith, yn haeddu gweld y Cynulliad yn cyflenwi'r hyn y mae'n ei addo ac yn ariannu'r polisi hwn yn briodol?

Andrew Davies: Anghytunaf â'r honiad bod y rhaglen honno'n cael ei thanariannu. Mae'n un o brif ymrwymadau'r Llywodraeth hon. Gwnaethom negodi buddsoddiad sylweddol gyda'r Gweinidog dros Blant, Addysg, Dysgu Gydol Oes a Sgiliau, i ddangos mor ymroddgar ydym i'r ymrwymiad allweddol hwn gan Lywodraeth y Cynulliad. Rhaglen bedair blynedd ydyw, ac mae'r Gweinidog dros Blant, Addysg, Dysgu Gydol Oes a Sgiliau a'r Prif Weinidog wedi egluro y bydd y rhaglen hon yn cael ei chyflwyno dros bedair blynedd.

Fodd bynnag, ar yr un pryd, negodwyd y sail ar gyfer yr arian gyda llywodraeth leol, a chyda Cymdeithas Cyfarwyddwyr Addysg Cymru. Bu negodi ynghylch y fformiwla a ddefnyddiwyd, a'r arian a'i dilynodd, a chytunwyd arnynt, gyda llywodraeth leol. Mewn rhai ardaloedd yng Nghymru, mae awdurdodau wedi derbyn lefel yr arian, ac wedi cytuno ar hynny. Mewn ardaloedd eraill, mae cyfarwyddwyr addysg wedi dweud bod yr arian yn annigonol, ond wedi cytuno ar y fformiwla. Cafwyd cryn dipyn o godi bwganod gan rai cyfarwyddwyr addysg, ac yr wyf wedi gweld llythyrau, yn ôl yn yr hydref, a oedd yn sôn am doriad yng nghyllid Llywodraeth y Cynulliad mewn ffordd eithaf cyfeiliornus a gwallus, a chwbl gamarweiniol yn fy marn i. Fel y dangosodd y Gweinidog dros Blant, Addysg, Dysgu Gydol Oes a Sgiliau, yr ydym wedi ymrwymo i'r rhaglen hon a byddwn yn gweithio gydag

authorities, particularly with directors of education, to roll out this significant commitment by this Government.

Y Llywydd: Tynnwyd cwestiwn 9, OAQ(3)0276(FPS), yn ôl.

Public Services in Powys

Q10 Mick Bates: What steps is the Minister taking to improve the performance of public services in Powys? OAQ(3)0273(FPS)

Andrew Davies: Our ambition is that, in every part of Wales, we have citizen-centred public services that are high-performing, efficient, and innovative.

Mick Bates: That was an enthusiastic response, Minister. [*Laughter.*] However, I believe that there is a real danger that decisions about the delivery of our public services have been taken without assessing the needs of the people who use those services. In Powys, for example, houses are being built that are not addressing the true needs of many citizens. The lack of affordable housing is but one issue. Housing that meets the needs of families with disabled children is important, and is lacking in Powys in particular. Much of the problem stems from the fact that departments do not work together to improve their performance and meet the housing needs of many families. What are you doing, Minister, to ensure that these departments work closely together to provide public services that are desperately needed by many families with disabled children?

Andrew Davies: We cannot say that we are delivering citizen-centred services if we are not involving citizens in assessing need or, indeed, in the design and delivery of public services. I am enthusiastic or passionate—whatever you want to call it—about that, and that will be the focus of our activities. I am certainly enthusiastic about our commitment to build 6,500 affordable homes during this Assembly. We would want to work with local partners—whether local authorities,

awdurdodau lleol, a chyda chyfarwyddwyr addysg yn benodol, i gyflwyno'r ymrwymiad arwyddocaol hwn gan y Llywodraeth hon.

The Presiding Officer: Question 9, OAQ(3)0276(FPS), has been withdrawn.

Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus ym Mhowys

C10 Mick Bates: Pa gamau y mae'r Gweinidog yn eu cymryd i wella perfformiad gwasanaethau cyhoeddus ym Mhowys? OAQ(3)0273(FPS)

Andrew Davies: Ein nod yw cael gwasanaethau cyhoeddus sy'n canolbwyntio ar y dinesydd ym mhob rhan o Gymru, a'r rheini'n wasanaethau effeithlon ac arloesol sy'n perfformio'n dda.

Mick Bates: Yr oedd yr ymateb hwnnw'n frwdfrydig, Weinidog. [*Chwerthin.*] Fodd bynnag, credaf y ceir perygl gwirioneddol bod penderfyniadau am gyflenwi ein gwasanaethau cyhoeddus wedi eu gwneud heb asesu anghenion y bobl sy'n defnyddio'r gwasanaethau hynny. Ym Mhowys, er enghraifft, mae tai yn cael eu hadeiladu ond nid ydynt yn mynd i'r afael â gwir anghenion llawer o ddinasyddion. Dim ond un mater yw'r prinder tai fforddiadwy. Mae tai sy'n diwallu anghenion teuluoedd a chanddynt blant anabl yn bwysig, a cheir diffyg tai fel hyn yn arbennig ym Mhowys. Mae'r broblem i raddau helaeth yn deillio o'r ffaith nad yw adrannau'n gweithio gyda'i gilydd i wella'u perfformiad ac i fodloni anghenion llawer o deuluoedd o ran tai. Beth yr ydych yn ei wneud, Weinidog, i sicrhau bod yr adrannau hyn yn gweithio'n glòs gyda'i gilydd i ddarparu gwasanaethau cyhoeddus y mae eu hangen yn ddirfawr ar lawer o deuluoedd a chanddynt blant anabl?

Andrew Davies: Ni allwn ddweud ein bod yn cyflenwi gwasanaethau sy'n canolbwyntio ar y dinesydd os nad ydym yn cynnwys dinasyddion wrth asesu angen neu, yn wir, wrth gynllunio a chyflenwi gwasanaethau cyhoeddus. Yr wyf yn frwdfrydig neu'n angerddol—beth bynnag y'i galwch—ynghylch hynny, a dyna fydd canolbwynt ein gweithgareddau. Yr wyf yn bendant yn frwdfrydig ynghylch ein hymrwymiad i adeiladu 6,500 o dai fforddiadwy yn ystod

registered social landlords, or housing associations and others—to assess local housing need. Our job as a Government will be to work with them to put in place programmes and policies that will deliver on that. If you are telling me that local needs are not being taken into account, please write to me and to the Deputy Minister for Housing, as we would want to look at what you have said and, if it is true, to address it.

tymor y Cynulliad hwn. Byddem yn dymuno gweithio gyda phartneriaid lleol—yn awdurdodau lleol, yn landlordiaid cymdeithasol cofrestredig, neu'n gymdeithasau tai ac eraill—i asesu'r angen am dai yn lleol. Ein gwaith fel Llywodraeth fydd gweithio gyda hwy i roi rhaglenni a pholisïau ar waith a fydd yn cyflawni hynny. Os ydych yn dweud wrthyf nad yw anghenion lleol yn cael eu hystyried, ysgrifennwch ataf fi ac at y Dirprwy Weinidog dros Dai, oherwydd byddem yn dymuno edrych ar yr hyn yr ydych wedi'i ddweud ac, os yw'n wir, mynd i'r afael ag ef.

The Leader of the Opposition (Nick Bourne): One issue that concerns people in Powys—and, I suspect, elsewhere in rural Wales—is ambulance response times. You would expect them to be a bit poorer in rural Wales, but they are much poorer. However, only one high-dependency vehicle—and I applaud the fact that we have 26 in Wales—is deployed in Powys. Given the fact that ambulance response times are so much slower there, the need is that much greater. Will you have a look at this in financial terms, because there is a real concern that Powys has had a very poor deal in relation to high-dependency vehicles?

Arweinydd yr Wrthblaid (Nick Bourne): Un mater sy'n peri pryder i bobl ym Mhowys—ac mewn rhannau eraill o Gymru wledig, fe dybiaf—yw amseroedd ymateb ambiwlansys. Disgwyliech iddynt fod ychydig yn waeth yng Nghymru wledig, ond maent yn waeth o lawer. Fodd bynnag, dim ond un cerbyd dibyniaeth fawr sydd ym Mhowys—a chymeradwyaf y ffaith bod gennym 26 yng Nghymru. A chofio bod amseroedd ymateb ambiwlansys gymaint yn arafach yno, mae'r angen gymaint yn fwy. A edrychwch ar hyn mewn cyd-destun ariannol, oherwydd ceir gwir bryder i Bowys gael cam yng nghyswllt cerbydau dibyniaeth fawr?

Andrew Davies: It is not my policy area, Nick, but I will speak to the Minister for Health and Social Services about this and either she or I will respond to the concerns that you have raised.

Andrew Davies: Nid yw'n rhan o'm maes polisi i, ond siaradaf â'r Gweinidog dros lechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol ynglŷn â hyn a bydd hi neu minnau'n ymateb i'r pryderon a godwyd gennych.

Cwestiynau i'r Gweinidog dros Blant, Addysg, Dysgu Gydol Oes a Sgiliau Questions to the Minister for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills

Alcohol Abuse

Camddefnyddio Alcohol

Q1 Jenny Randerson: What plans does the Welsh Assembly Government have to increase education in schools on alcohol abuse? OAQ(3)0337(CEL)

C1 Jenny Randerson: Pa gynlluniau sydd gan Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru i gynyddu'r addysg a geir mewn ysgolion ar gamddefnyddio alcohol? OAQ(3)0337(CEL)

The Minister for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills (Jane Hutt): The revised school curriculum requires all schools to deliver effective substance misuse education. Alcohol as a substance and binge drinking as a particular issue are specifically identified in the new personal and social

Y Gweinidog dros Blant, Addysg, Dysgu Gydol Oes a Sgiliau (Jane Hutt): Mae'n ofynnol dan y cwricwlwm ysgol diwygiedig i bob ysgol roi addysg effeithiol ar gamddefnyddio sylweddau. Rhestrir alcohol fel sylwedd a goryfed mewn pyllau fel problem arbennig yn y fframwaith addysg

education framework for seven to 19-year-olds.

Jenny Randerson: Thank you for that answer, Minister, but that does not appear to be working. In the last financial year, 371 people under the age of 16 were admitted to hospital with alcohol-related illnesses. That is more than one child per day. One hundred and fourteen of those admitted were under 14 years of age. Perhaps the most shocking statistic of all is that, in the last seven years, 76 children under the age of eight were taken to hospital in Wales with alcohol-related illnesses. Will you agree to have urgent discussions with the Minister for Health and Social Services about this, and take urgent action to ratchet up and dramatically improve the education provided to children in Wales about the dangers of alcohol?

1.10 p.m.

Jane Hutt: Thank you very much, Jenny. I share your deep concerns. In fact, this is an area on which I am working closely with the Minister for Social Justice and Local Government and the Minister for Health and Social Services. You know that we are consulting on a new substance misuse prevention strategy and what is emerging from the evidence base is the important role played by schools. Furthermore, Estyn did a report on substance misuse in which it recognised that this kind of education is much more effective if it is done in primary schools than in secondary schools, and that attention should be drawn, at the primary school age, to the risks for those children. I welcome the work that has been done by the all-Wales police school liaison programme, which has strongly taken on alcohol issues in its work in schools. I will ensure that those points are taken on board as we lead up to the revised substance misuse prevention strategy and the alcohol action plan.

Lorraine Barrett: When you look at this, it is important for schools to play their part, but will you also give some thought to the role that parents should play in the education of

personol a chymdeithasol newydd ar gyfer plant a phobl ifanc rhwng saith a 19 oed.

Jenny Randerson: Diolch ichi am yr ateb hwnnw, Weinidog, ond nid yw'n ymddangos bod hynny'n gweithio. Yn y flwyddyn ariannol ddiwethaf, derbyniwyd 371 o bobl iau nag 16 oed i'r ysbyty gydag afiechydon cysylltiedig ag alcohol. Mae hynny'n fwy nag un plentyn bob dydd. Yr oedd 114 o'r rheini a dderbyniwyd yn iau na 14 oed. Efallai mai'r ystadegyn mwyaf brawychus yw i 76 o blant dan wyth oed, yn y saith mlynedd diwethaf, fynd i'r ysbyty yng Nghymru gydag afiechyd a oedd yn gysylltiedig ag alcohol. A gytunwch i gael trafodaethau brys gyda'r Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol ynghylch hyn, ac i gymryd camau brys i wella'n ddirfawr yr addysg a ddarperir i blant yng Nghymru am beryglon alcohol?

Jane Hutt: Diolch yn fawr iawn ichi, Jenny. Yr wyf yn rhannu'ch pryderon dwys. Yn wir, yr wyf yn gweithio'n agos ar hyn gyda'r Gweinidog dros Gyfiawnder Cymdeithasol a Llywodraeth Leol a'r Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol. Gwyddoch ein bod yn ymgynghori ar strategaeth newydd i atal camddefnyddio sylweddau, a'r hyn y mae'r dystiolaeth yn ei ddangos yw'r rhan bwysig y mae ysgolion yn ei chwarae. Yn ogystal â hynny, lluniodd Estyn adroddiad ar gamddefnyddio sylweddau, ac yn hwnnw cydnabu fod y math hwn o addysg yn fwy effeithiol o lawer os caiff ei roi mewn ysgolion cynradd yn hytrach na mewn ysgolion uwchradd, ac y dylid tynnu sylw'r plant hynny at y peryglon pan maent yn yr ysgol gynradd. Croesawaf y gwaith a wnaethpwyd gan raglen cyswllt yr heddlu ag ysgolion Cymru gyfan, sydd wedi mynd i'r afael yn gadarn â materion yn ymwneud ag alcohol wrth weithio ag ysgolion. Sicrhaf yr ystyrir y pwyntiau hynny pan fyddwn yn arwain at y strategaeth ddiwygiedig ar atal camddefnyddio sylweddau a'r cynllun gweithredu ar alcohol.

Lorraine Barrett: Pan edrychwch ar hyn, mae'n bwysig i ysgolion wneud eu rhan, ond a wnewch hefyd feddwl am y swyddogaeth y dylai rhieni ei chwarae yn addysg eu plant ac

their children and whether that could be supported through school mechanisms such as parent-teacher associations or special evenings for parents or school governors, because such education starts at home as well as having to be carried through the schools and education system?

Jane Hutt: Yes, and that is crucial in terms of getting the alcohol action plan right. It is not only about the role of parents, but the links between school and the home, and ensuring that parents can take advantage and benefit from the alcohol action plan and the work, possibly, of the all-Wales police school liaison programme.

Brynle Williams: Lorraine and Jenny have highlighted the educational aspect of this. However, do you agree that we also need a more concerted campaign to make parents aware of what their children are doing? You have heard the figures on alcohol abuse, and you have given some yourself. I find it disturbing that the incidence of cirrhosis of the liver—an alcohol-related disease—is increasing among young people. Can we do something to educate parents to make them more responsible for what their children are getting up to?

Jane Hutt: I think that we should look to the Chief Medical Officer for Wales, Dr Tony Jewell, for advice and guidance. That clearly links into our 10-year strategy to tackle binge drinking and substance misuse. In terms of that strategy, he addresses four areas: prevention, supporting substance misusers—and supporting families, which is crucial—as well as tackling availability and protecting individuals and communities. Tackling availability is also a big issue in relation to licensing issues. I am sure that, across the board in this Assembly, we would want to ensure that we look at that holistically. It is not only about what is happening to children and families, but about the availability and sale of alcohol to young people. We also need to address that with our colleagues in the police.

ystyried a ellid cefnogi hynny drwy fecanweithiau ysgol megis cymdeithasau plant-rhieni neu nosweithiau arbennig ar gyfer rhieni neu lywodraethwyr yr ysgol, oherwydd yn ogystal â gorfod cael ei gario drwy'r ysgolion a'r system addysg, mae addysg o'r fath yn dechrau yn y cartref hefyd?

Jane Hutt: Gwnaf, ac mae hynny'n hanfodol wrth sicrhau bod y cynllun gweithredu ar alcohol yn iawn. Mae'n ymwneud â mwy na swyddogaeth rhieni, mae'n ymwneud â'r cysylltiadau rhwng yr ysgol a'r cartref, a sicrhau y gall rhieni fanteisio ar gynllun gweithredu ar alcohol yr ysgol, ac ar waith rhaglen cyswllt yr heddlu ag ysgolion Gymru gyfan o bosibl, a chael budd ohonynt.

Brynle Williams: Mae Lorraine a Jenny wedi tynnu sylw at yr agwedd addysgol ar hyn. Fodd bynnag, a gytunwch fod angen inni hefyd gael ymgyrchu mwy cydunol i godi ymwybyddiaeth rhieni o'r hyn y mae eu plant yn ei wneud? Clywsoch y ffigurau ar gamddefnyddio alcohol, a rhoesoch rai eich hun. Mae'n peri pryder imi bod niferoedd yr achosion o galedwch yr iau—clefyd sy'n gysylltiedig ag alcohol—yn cynyddu ymhlith pobl ifanc. A allwn wneud rhywbeth i addysgu rhieni er mwyn eu gwneud yn fwy cyfrifol o'r hyn y mae eu plant yn ei wneud?

Jane Hutt: Credaf y dylem droi at Brif Swyddog Meddygol Cymru, Dr Tony Jewell, am gyngor a chyfarwyddyd. Mae hynny'n amlwg yn cysylltu â'n strategaeth 10 mlynedd i fynd i'r afael â goryfed mewn pyllau a chamddefnyddio sylweddau. Yng nghyswllt y strategaeth honno, mae'n cyfeirio at bedwar maes: atal, cefnogi'r rhai sy'n camddefnyddio sylweddau—a chefnogi teuluoedd, sy'n hanfodol—yn ogystal â mynd i'r afael â pha mor hwylus yw cael gafael arnynt ac amddiffyn unigolion a chymunedau. Mae mynd i'r afael â pha mor hwylus yw cael gafael ar alcohol yn broblem fawr o ran materion trwyddedu. Yr wyf yn siŵr y byddem, yn gyffredinol yn y Cynulliad, yn dymuno sicrhau ein bod yn edrych ar hynny mewn ffordd gyfannol. Mae'n ymwneud â mwy na'r hyn sy'n digwydd i blant a theuluoedd, mae'n ymwneud â pha mor hwylus ydyw i bobl ifanc gael alcohol a'r modd y'i gwerthir

iddynt. Mae angen inni edrych ar hynny gyda'n cydweithwyr yn yr heddlu hefyd.

Leanne Wood: In 2005-06, over half of 15 to 16-year-olds drank alcohol weekly. The rates of weekly drinking and drunkenness among schoolchildren are higher in Wales than in other European countries. We all know that a high percentage of crime is drug or alcohol related. I am glad that you mentioned the importance of educating primary schoolchildren about these matters, but can you tell me what you are doing to ensure that every primary schoolchild has access to harm-reduction-based substance misuse education and what pressure are you putting on your colleagues in London to ensure that alcopops are heavily taxed?

Leanne Wood: Yn 2005-06, yr oedd dros hanner y plant rhwng 15 ac 16 oed yn yfed alcohol yn wythnosol. Mae cyfraddau yfed a meddwi'n wythnosol ymhlith plant ysgol yn uwch yng Nghymru nag mewn gwledydd eraill yn Ewrop. Gwyddom oll fod canran uchel o droseddu yn gysylltiedig ag alcohol neu gyffuriau. Yr wyf yn falch ichi grybwyll pwysigrwydd addysgu plant ysgol gynradd am y materion hyn, ond a allwch ddweud wrthyf beth yr ydych yn ei wneud i sicrhau bod gan bob plentyn ysgol gynradd fynediad at addysg camddefnyddio sylweddau ar sail lleihau niwed, a pha bwysau a roddwch ar eich cyd-Aelodau yn Llundain i sicrhau y codir treth uchel ar alcopops?

Jane Hutt: I have already touched on that last point in relation to the availability of alcohol, and alcopops are a part of that. We need to discuss these issues with our colleagues in the UK Government. We are addressing how we can consider this from the perspective of community safety and promoting principles of positive citizenship in schools and the wider community. I also draw your attention to the fact that the alcohol action plan is about tackling health inequalities and reducing alcohol-related violence and offending. It is those issues that really link in to harm-reduction interventions. We know from the evidence, as you say, that the extent and nature of alcohol problems and the effectiveness of harm-reduction interventions are clear and will be reflected in policy development.

Jane Hutt: Yr wyf eisoes wedi crybwyll y pwynt diwethaf hwnnw o ran pa mor hwylus yw cael gafael ar alcohol, ac mae alcopops yn rhan o hynny. Mae angen inni drafod y materion hyn gyda'n cyd-Aelodau yn Llywodraeth y DU. Yr ydym yn edrych ar sut y gallwn ystyried hyn o safbwynt diogelwch cymunedol a hyrwyddo egwyddorion o ddinasyddiaeth gadarnhaol mewn ysgolion ac yn y gymuned ehangach. Hoffwn hefyd dynnu'ch sylw at y ffaith bod y cynllun gweithredu ar alcohol yn ymwneud â mynd i'r afael ag anghydraddoldebau iechyd a lleihau trais a throseddu sy'n ymwneud ag alcohol. Y materion hynny sy'n wirioneddol blethu ag ymyriadau lleihau niwed. Fel y dywedwch, mae'r dystiolaeth yn dangos inni fod maint a natur problemau alcohol ac effeithiolrwydd ymyriadau lleihau niwed yn glir a chânt eu hadlewyrchu mewn datblygiad polisi.

Main Educational Achievements

Q2 Rosemary Butler: What are the Welsh Assembly Government's main educational achievements in the Newport area? OAQ(3)0357(CEL)

Jane Hutt: Newport benefits from the implementation of our policies in respect of children, education, lifelong learning and skills. We are investing to provide an environment to support the best start in life and to encourage learning at all stages in

Prif Lwyddiannau Addysgol

C2 Rosemary Butler: Beth yw prif lwyddiannau addysgol Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn ardal Casnewydd? OAQ(3)0357(CEL)

Jane Hutt: Mae Casnewydd yn elwa o weithredu ein polisiâu yng nghyswllt plant, addysg, dysgu gydol oes a sgiliau. Yr ydym yn buddsoddi i ddarparu amgylchedd sy'n cefnogi'r cychwyn gorau mewn bywyd ac sy'n annog dysgu ym mhob cam ym

people's lives.

Rosemary Butler: I am sure that you would agree with me that children in Newport receive a high-quality education right across the city. A series of new schools are being built, but the jewel in the crown will be the implementation of the foundation phase of education. Pilot studies in Newport were a huge success and delivered fantastic results. I know that many schools are looking forward to introducing the foundation phase with great enthusiasm. However, I have been approached by a number of governors who are concerned about the formula for funding the foundation phase in the new academic term. Could you give us an assurance that there will be enough money for the foundation phase for the children of Newport?

Jane Hutt: I was grateful that you forwarded to me an e-mail from a parent-governor at one of the pilot schools in Pillgwenlly. The experience of the foundation phase in that community has been very positive. That is why it is the jewel in the crown, and I pay tribute to the fact that this was developed in the early days of the Assembly when you were Minister for education.

I assure colleagues—I will have an opportunity to do so again later on in response to an opposition debate—that we are addressing this issue. As the Minister for Finance and Public Service Delivery said, over £107 million of additional, specific, ring-fenced funding has been allocated for the roll-out of the foundation phase throughout Wales. It was distributed according to a funding formula that was agreed by the Association of Directors of Education in Wales and the Welsh Local Government Association. My officials and I are working this week and next week with all local authorities to consider these issues. It is a new programme and, inevitably, there will be teething problems, so we are working with authorities on those. I will be meeting with the WLGA, ADEW, the teachers' unions and those with a key interest when they have done their work to review the progress of the phase over the next few weeks.

mywydau pobl.

Rosemary Butler: Yr wyf yn siŵr y byddech yn cytuno â mi bod plant yng Nghasnewydd yn cael addysg o ansawdd uchel ym mhob rhan o'r ddinas. Mae cyfres o ysgolion newydd yn cael eu hadeiladu, ond un o'r prif drysorau fydd gweithredu'r cyfnod sylfaen addysg. Yr oedd astudiaethau peilot yng Nghasnewydd yn llwyddiant ysgubol a darparasant ganlyniadau gwych. Yr wyf yn gwybod bod nifer o ysgolion yn edrych ymlaen yn frwd iawn at gyflwyno'r cyfnod sylfaen. Fodd bynnag, mae nifer o lywodraethwyr wedi dod ataf yn poeni am y fformiwla ar gyfer cyllido'r cyfnod sylfaen yn y tymor academaidd newydd. A allech ein sicrhau y bydd digon o arian ar gyfer y cyfnod sylfaen i blant Casnewydd?

Jane Hutt: Yr oeddwn yn ddiolchgar ichi anfon neges e-bost ymlaen ataf gan riant-lywodraethwr yn un o'r ysgolion peilot ym Mhllgwenlli. Cadarnhaol iawn fu'r profiad o'r cyfnod sylfaen yn y gymuned honno. Dyna pam ei fod yn un o'r prif drysorau, a rhoddaf deyrnged i'r ffaith i hyn gael ei ddatblygu yn nyddiau cynnar y Cynulliad pan oeddech chi'n Weinidog dros addysg.

Yr wyf yn sicrhau cyd-Aelodau—a byddaf yn cael cyfle i wneud hynny eto yn nes ymlaen wrth ymateb i ddadl gan yr wrthblaid—ein bod yn rhoi sylw i'r mater hwn. Fel y dywedodd y Gweinidog dros Gyllid a Chyflenwi Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus, mae dros £107 miliwn o gyllid ychwanegol, penodol a neilltuwyd wedi cael ei ddyrannu ar gyfer cyflwyno'r cyfnod sylfaen ledled Cymru. Cafodd ei ddsbarthu yn ôl fformiwla cyllido y cytunwyd arni gan Gymdeithas Cyfarwyddwyr Addysg Cymru a Chymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru. Mae fy swyddogion a minnau'n gweithio'r wythnos hon a'r wythnos nesaf gyda phob awdurdod lleol i ystyried y materion hyn. Mae hi'n rhaglen newydd ac, yn anochel, ceir trafferthion cychwynnol, felly yr ydym yn gweithio gydag awdurdodau ar y rheini. Byddaf yn cwrdd â CLILC, Cymdeithas Cyfarwyddwyr Addysg Cymru, yr undebau athrawon a'r rheini sydd â diddordeb allweddol ar ôl iddynt orffen eu gwaith i adolygu cynnydd y cyfnod dros yr ychydig

wythnosau nesaf.

William Graham: Your reply was a little confused, shall we say. May I clarify for you the fact that Labour-run Newport City Council requires £450,000 to implement the foundation phase? I will repeat Mrs Butler's question: will you make that money available?

Jane Hutt: As I said, William, we are holding detailed discussions this week. We are working on a regional basis, and the first meeting was held yesterday with all the local authorities, the WLGA and ADEW, to work through with them the calculations that they are making against the estimates that were made by the Welsh Assembly Government as a result of discussions with and information received from ADEW. That £107 million was accepted in the expenditure group analysis provided by local government to inform our budget.

Mohammad Asghar: I wish to congratulate Newport on the fact that a second new Welsh-medium primary school will be opened soon in the city. However, the secondary school in Pontypool is only offering places this year to those children who are coming up from primary schools, and there will not be enough places next year unless something is done. What action is the Government taking to ensure that the local education authorities are planning effectively to meet the growing demand for Welsh-medium education?

Jane Hutt: We must consider this issue in relation to the importance of the Ysgol Gyfun Gwynllyw provision, because it serves a wide area. I am sure that that is what you are focusing on. We need to have adequate Welsh-medium education. There is a duty under section 14 of the Education Act 1996 on local authorities to ensure that there are a sufficient number of schools in their areas.

1.20 p.m.

I have not only had meetings with Lynne

William Graham: Yr oedd eich ateb ychydig yn ddryslyd, a ddywedwn ni. A allaf egluro'r ffaith i chi bod eisiau £450,000 ar Gyngor Dinas Casnewydd dan arweiniad Llafur i roi'r cyfnod sylfaen ar waith? Ailadroddaf gwestiwn Mrs Butler: a fyddwch yn darparu'r arian hwnnw?

Jane Hutt: Fel y dywedais, William, yr ydym yn cynnal trafodaethau manwl yr wythnos hon. Yr ydym yn gweithio ar sail ranbarthol, a chynhaliwyd y cyfarfod cyntaf ddoe gyda'r holl awdurdodau lleol, CLILC a Chymdeithas Cyfarwyddwyr Addysg Cymru, i fynd drwy'r cyfrifiadau y maent yn eu gwneud gan eu cymharu â'r amcangyfrifon a wnaethpwyd gan Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru o ganlyniad i drafodaethau gyda Chymdeithas Cyfarwyddwyr Addysg Cymru a'r wybodaeth a gafwyd ganddi. Cafodd y £107 miliwn hwnnw ei dderbyn yn y dadansoddiad grŵp gwariant a ddarparwyd gan lywodraeth leol i gyfrannu at ein cyllideb.

Mohammad Asghar: Dymunaf longyfarch Casnewydd am y ffaith y bydd ail ysgol gynradd cyfrwng Cymraeg newydd yn agor yn y ddinas cyn bo hir. Fodd bynnag, dim ond i'r plant hynny sy'n dod i fyny o ysgolion cynradd y mae'r ysgol uwchradd ym Mhont-y-pŵl yn cynnig lle eleni, ac ni fydd digon o leoedd y flwyddyn nesaf oni wneir rhywbeth. Pa gamau y mae'r Llywodraeth yn eu cymryd i sicrhau bod awdurdodau addysg lleol yn cynllunio'n effeithiol i ddiwallu'r cynnydd yn y galw am addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg?

Jane Hutt: Rhaid inni ystyried y mater hwn yng nghyswllt pwysigrwydd darpariaeth Ysgol Gyfun Gwynllyw, oherwydd ei bod yn gwasanaethu ardal eang. Yr wyf yn siŵr mai dyna'r hyn yr ydych yn canolbwyntio arno. Mae angen inni gael digon o addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg. Ceir dyletswydd dan adran 14 Deddf Addysg 1996 ar awdurdodau lleol i sicrhau bod digon o ysgolion yn eu hardaloedd.

Nid yn unig yr wyf wedi cael cyfarfodydd

Neagle and received representations from Jocelyn Davies, Trish Law and you, about handling the demand and the need for Welsh-medium secondary education, but my officials had a meeting with all of the authorities concerned, led by Torfaen, in March. We will find a way forward, not just for September, but also for the future.

Student Funding

Q3 Andrew R.T. Davies: Will the Minister make a statement on student funding in South Wales Central? OAQ(3)0352(CEL)

Jane Hutt: Information on student enrolments and student support by local authorities are available on the StatsWales website. The total student funding for further and higher education in Wales for the 2007-08 financial year was approximately £317 million.

Andrew R.T. Davies: My question refers to communication that students can have with the Student Loans Company over the status and the repayment of their debt. I am led to believe, from representations made to me, that there is no internet access facility for people to access the status of their loan and their repayment facilities. The company only makes annual contact with its customers. How can we expect students to manage their finances and for former students to repay their debt, when they have difficulty in contacting the company that holds that debt? Can you use your good offices to look into this matter and address the issue as one of importance?

Jane Hutt: I will, Andrew, and I would be grateful if you could send that correspondence to me. The Student Finance Wales finance contact centre—its contact number is 0845 6028845—and its website is more than an annual contact point; it gives that kind of advice and support to every student. We know that 19,000 Welsh domiciled students applying since 2006-07 are receiving partial or full support through the new Assembly learning grant—that is one example. They are accessing the grants and we are supporting them in terms of dealing with debt.

gyda Lynne Neagle ac wedi cael sylwadau gan Jocelyn Davies, Trish Law a chithau am ddelio â'r galw a'r angen am addysg uwchradd cyfrwng Cymraeg, ond cafodd fy swyddogion gyfarfod gyda'r holl awdurdodau dan sylw, wedi'i arwain gan Dor-faen, ym mis Mawrth. Byddwn yn dod o hyd i ffordd ymlaen, nid yn unig ar gyfer mis Medi, ond ar gyfer y dyfodol hefyd.

Cyllid Myfyrwyr

C3 Andrew R.T. Davies: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am gyllid myfyrwyr yng Nghanol De Cymru? OAQ(3)0352(CEL)

Jane Hutt: Mae gwybodaeth am gofrestrïadau myfyrwyr a chefnogaeth myfyrwyr gan awdurdodau lleol ar gael ar wefan StatsCymru. Yr oedd cyfanswm cyllid myfyrwyr ar gyfer addysg bellach ac uwch yng Nghymru ar gyfer blwyddyn ariannol 2007-08 oddeutu £317 miliwn.

Andrew R.T. Davies: Mae fy nghwestiwn yn cyfeirio at y cyswllt a geir rhwng myfyrwyr â'r Cwmni Benthyciadau i Fyfywyr dros statws ac ad-dalu eu dyledion. Caf ar ddeall, o ganlyniad i sylwadau yr wyf wedi'u cael, nad oes cyfleuster mynediad dros y rhyngrwyd i bobl allu gweld statws eu benthyciad a'u cyfleusterau ad-dalu. Dim ond unwaith y flwyddyn y bydd y cwmni'n cysylltu â'i gwsmeriaid. Sut y gallwn ddisgwyl i fyfyrwyr reoli eu harian ac i gyn fyfyrwyr ad-dalu eu dyled, a hithau'n anodd iddynt gysylltu â'r cwmni sy'n dal y ddyled honno? A allwch chi ddefnyddio eich dylanwad i ymchwilio i'r mater hwn a rhoi sylw i'r mater fel un pwysig?

Jane Hutt: Gallaf, Andrew, a byddwn yn ddiolchgar pe bai modd ichi anfon yr ohebiaeth honno ataf. Mae canolfan gyswllt Cyllid Myfyrwyr Cymru—ei rhif cyswllt yw 0845 6028845—a'i gwefan yn fwy na phwynt cyswllt blynyddol; mae'n rhoi'r math hwnnw o gyngor a chefnogaeth i bob myfyriwr. Yr ydym yn gwybod bod 19,000 o fyfyrwyr sy'n hanu o Gymru ac sydd wedi gwneud cais er 2006-07 yn cael cefnogaeth lawn neu rannol drwy grant dysgu newydd y Cynulliad—dyna un enghraifft. Maent yn cael gafael ar y grantiau ac yr ydym yn eu cefnogi o ran delio â dyledion.

Chris Franks: What safeguards have been put in place for students if the proposed Sale of Student Loans Bill is passed? What extra assistance is available for students facing debt and what measures is the Minister taking to help Welsh domiciled students if the Westminster Government lifts the cap on fees in 2009?

Jane Hutt: I will answer that last point directly, as it also deals with one of your other questions in terms of the tuition fee cap. The cap on fees is due to be reviewed in England in 2009, and we will have to consider any policy implications. The 'One Wales' commitment seeks to give extra assistance for student debt, maintain existing fee levels to 2009-10, maintain the current level of resources through the Assembly term and do whatever is possible to mitigate effects on Welsh students if Westminster lifts the cap on fees in 2009. That is the commitment that we have made.

Making Merthyr Tydfil a University Town

Q4 Huw Lewis: Will the Minister provide an update on the Welsh Assembly Government's commitment to making Merthyr Tydfil a university town? OAQ(3)377(CEL)

Jane Hutt: The commitment by this Government to making Merthyr Tydfil a university town is a key priority, which will be strengthened by a ministerial task and finish group on the Heads of the Valleys university initiative. I am delighted that my colleagues, Leighton Andrews and John Griffiths, the Deputy Minister for Skills, are joining me on that group.

Huw Lewis: Thank you, Minister, for your ongoing engagement on this issue over recent months; you have been very approachable. Partnership working is never easy, and I am glad that you are playing an active role in making this commitment a reality for Merthyr Tydfil. You may know that the Liberal Democrats locally have called this multi-million pound investment in Merthyr's future and Merthyr's young people a

Chris Franks: Pa drefniadau diogelu a roddwyd ar waith ar gyfer myfyrwyr os caiff y Mesur Gwerthu Benthyciadau Myfyrwyr arfaethedig ei basio? Pa gymorth ychwanegol sydd ar gael i fyfyrwyr sy'n wynebu dyled a pha gamau y mae'r Gweinidog yn eu cymryd i helpu myfyrwyr sy'n hanu o Gymru os bydd Llywodraeth San Steffan yn codi'r cap ar ffioedd yn 2009?

Jane Hutt: Atebaf y pwynt olaf hwnnw'n uniongyrchol, gan ei fod hefyd yn delio ag un o'ch cwestiynau eraill o ran y cap ar ffioedd dysgu. Bydd y cap ar ffioedd yn cael ei adolygu yn Lloegr yn 2009, a bydd yn rhaid inni ystyried unrhyw oblygiadau polisi. Mae ymrwymiad 'Cymru'n Un' yn ceisio rhoi cymorth ychwanegol ar gyfer dyledion myfyrwyr, cynnal lefelau ffioedd cyfredol hyd at 2009-10, cynnal lefel gyfredol adnoddau drwy gydol tymor y Cynulliad a gwneud beth bynnag sy'n bosibl i liniaru'r effeithiau ar fyfyrwyr Cymru os bydd San Steffan yn codi'r cap ar ffioedd yn 2009. Dyna'r ymrwymiad yr ydym wedi'i wneud.

Gwneud Merthyr Tudful yn Dref Prifysgol

C4 Huw Lewis: A wnaiff y Gweinidog roi'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf am ymrwymiad Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru i wneud Merthyr Tudful yn dref prifysgol? OAQ(3)377(CEL)

Jane Hutt: Mae ymrwymiad y Llywodraeth hon i wneud Merthyr Tudful yn dref brifysgol yn flaenoriaeth allweddol, a fydd yn cael ei chryfhau gan grŵp gorchwyl a gorffen gweinidogol ar fenter prifysgol Blaenau'r Cymoedd. Yr wyf wrth fy modd bod fy nghyd-Aelodau, Leighton Andrews a John Griffiths, y Dirprwy Weinidog dros Sgiliau, yn ymuno â mi ar y grŵp hwnnw.

Huw Lewis: Diolch, Weinidog, am eich ymgysylltiad parhaus ar y mater hwn dros y misoedd diwethaf; mae hi wedi bod yn hawdd iawn troi atoch. Nid yw gwaith partneriaeth byth yn hawdd, ac yr wyf yn falch eich bod yn chwarae rhan weithredol i wireddu'r ymrwymiad hwn ar gyfer Merthyr Tudful. Efallai eich bod yn gwybod i'r Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol yn lleol alw'r buddsoddiad hwn, sydd werth miliynau o

gimmick. Do you agree that this attitude is as unhelpful as it is wrongheaded, and that, further, as evidenced by the current work done by the Enterprise and Learning Committee, a university can be a powerful driver for growth and regeneration, which is far from a gimmick?

Jane Hutt: Not only would I describe that as a shameful remark, if it was made, but also electorally extremely unwise from a party standing in Merthyr Tydfil. Your backing and stance as the Assembly Member for Merthyr Tydfil has been clear in terms of the opportunities that will emerge from taking forward our priority. It is encouraging to see that the number of UCAS applications for higher education courses from further education students in Merthyr has risen between 2006-07 and 2007-08. We have to make sure that there is seamless progression from FE to HE and a wider choice of HE courses in Merthyr by making it a university town. Also, the university of the Heads of the Valleys initiative, linking with Ebbw Vale, accessing European convergence funding, and making it a key part of our regeneration policy, will make that priority a reality.

William Graham: I make it perfectly clear that the Welsh Conservatives fully support this initiative and believe that it will very much benefit the people of Merthyr. As the University of Glamorgan campus becomes an established part of Merthyr, how is your Government acting to strengthen links between the university and employers in the area?

Jane Hutt: I would also pay tribute to the University of Wales, Newport's role as far as the university of the Heads of the Valleys initiative is concerned. It has collaborated with the University of Glamorgan and that collaboration will be strengthened by the ministerial group that we are taking forward. As we discussed in committee this morning, links to business are crucial and I think that the third mission funding is having an impact. I can see that the presence of university campuses in Merthyr and Ebbw

bunnoedd, yn nyfodol Merthyr ac ym mhobl ifanc Merthyr yn gimig. A ydych yn cytuno nad yw'r agwedd hon yn ddefnyddiol, gan ei bod yn bengam, ac, yn ychwanegol at hynny, fel y gwelwyd o'r dystiolaeth gan y gwaith sy'n cael ei wneud ar hyn o bryd gan y Pwyllgor Menter a Dysgu, y gall prifysgol fod yn hwb pwerus ar gyfer tyfu ac adfywio, sy'n dra gwahanol i gimig?

Jane Hutt: Nid yn unig y byddwn yn disgrifio hwnnw fel sylw cywilyddus, os cafodd ei wneud, ond yn sylw etholiadol annoeth dros ben gan blaid sy'n sefyll ym Merthyr Tudful. Mae eich cefnogaeth a'ch safiad chi fel yr Aelod Cynulliad dros Ferthyr Tudful wedi bod yn glir o ran y cyfleoedd a fydd yn dod i'r fei o fynd â'n blaenoriaeth rhagddi. Mae'n galonogol gweld bod nifer y ceisiadau UCAS ar gyfer cyrsiau addysg uwch gan fyfyrwyr addysg bellach ym Merthyr wedi codi rhwng 2006-07 a 2007-08. Rhaid inni sicrhau bod modd symud ymlaen yn ddi-dor rhwng addysg bellach ac addysg uwch ac y ceir dewis ehangach o gyrsiau addysg uwch ym Merthyr drwy ei gwneud yn dref prifysgol. Hefyd, bydd cysylltu menter prifysgol Blaenau'r Cymoedd â Glynebwy, cael gafael ar gyllid cydgyfeirio Ewropeaidd, a'i gwneud yn rhan allweddol o'n polisi adfywio, yn gwneud y flaenoriaeth honno'n realiti.

William Graham: Dywedaf yn hollol glir fod Ceidwadwyr Cymru yn cefnogi'r fenter hon i'r carn ac yn credu y bydd o fudd mawr i bobl Merthyr. Wrth i gampws Prifysgol Morgannwg ennill ei le ym Merthyr, sut y mae eich Llywodraeth yn gweithredu i gryfhau cysylltiadau rhwng y brifysgol a chyflogwyr yn yr ardal?

Jane Hutt: Ac ystyried menter prifysgol Blaenau'r Cymoedd, byddwn hefyd yn rhoi teyrnged i swyddogaeth Prifysgol Cymru, Casnewydd. Mae wedi cydweithio â Phrifysgol Morgannwg a chaiff y cydweithredu hwnnw ei gryfhau gan y grŵp gweinidogol yr ydym yn mynd ag ef rhagddo. Fel yr oeddem wedi'i drafod yn y pwyllgor y bore yma, mae cysylltiadau â busnesau'n hanfodol ac yr wyf yn meddwl bod y gronfa trydedd cenhadaeth yn cael dylanwad. Gallaf weld y bydd presenoldeb

Vale will also be a catalyst for business development and regeneration.

campysau prifysgol ym Merthyr ac yng Nglynebwy hefyd yn gatalydd ar gyfer datblygu busnesau ac adfywio.

Welsh Federal College

Coleg Ffederal i Gymru

Q5 Michael German: Will the Minister make a statement on the establishment of a Welsh federal college? OAQ(3)0339(CEL)

C5 Michael German: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am sefydlu coleg ffederal i Gymru? OAQ(3)0339(CEL)

Jane Hutt: 'One Wales' sets out our commitment to a federal college for Welsh-medium higher education. I am currently in discussions to take that commitment forward to ensure that the provision is sustainable and strategic, and to increase the opportunities for students in higher education to learn through the medium of Welsh.

Jane Hutt: Mae 'Cymru'n Un' yn gosod allan ein hymrwymiad i goleg ffederal ar gyfer addysg uwch cyfrwng Cymraeg. Ar hyn o bryd yr wyf yn cynnal trafodaethau sy'n mynd â'r ymrwymiad hwnnw rhagddo i sicrhau bod y ddarpariaeth yn gynaliadwy ac yn strategol, ac i gynyddu'r cyfleoedd i fyfyrwyr mewn addysg uwch ddysgu drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg.

Michael German: While I applaud the ambition, Minister, one of the difficulties is to know what your implementation timetable is on this matter. Commitment 105 on your list refers to implementation, implementation, and implementation over the remaining years of this Assembly. Could you flesh that out a bit more and give us some indication as to when the first set of courses will be available and what the roll out will look like?

Michael German: Er fy mod yn cymeradwyo'r uchelgais, Weinidog, un o'r anawsterau yw gwybod beth yw eich amserlen weithredu yn hyn o beth. Mae ymrwymiad 105 ar eich rhestr yn cyfeirio at weithredu, gweithredu a gweithredu dros weddill oes y Cynulliad hwn. A allech chi ymhelaethu ar hynny a rhoi syniad inni ynghylch pryd bydd y gyfres gyntaf o gyrsiau ar gael a beth fydd hyd a lled y cyflwyno?

Jane Hutt: We are already delivering, Mike, in terms of the £1.352 million that I announced in February this year for the Welsh-medium teaching development centre. That is funding Welsh-medium postgraduate scholarship and Welsh-medium teaching fellowship schemes that are run through the centre and higher education institutions across Wales.

Jane Hutt: Yr ydym eisoes yn cyflwyno, Mike, o ran y £1.352 miliwn a gyhoeddais ym mis Chwefror eleni ar gyfer y ganolfan datblygu addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg. Mae hynny'n cyllido cynlluniau ysgoloriaeth ôl-radd cyfrwng Cymraeg a chynlluniau cymrodoriaeth dysgu cyfrwng Cymraeg sy'n cael eu rhedeg drwy'r ganolfan a sefydliadau addysg uwch ledled Cymru.

Janet Ryder: Minister, one issue surrounding the federal college is what it will look like and how it will operate. Many courses are already being delivered through the medium of Welsh, but it is not what anybody would call a federal college and it certainly does not cover all provision. When will we know exactly what your vision is for delivering that and what that college will actually look like?

Janet Ryder: Weinidog, un mater sy'n ymwneud â'r coleg ffederal yw beth fydd ei hyd a'i led a sut y bydd yn gweithredu. Mae llawer o gyrsiau'n cael eu darparu drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg yn barod, ond ni fyddai neb yn ei alw yn goleg ffederal ac yn sicr nid yw'n cynnwys pob math o ddarpariaeth. Pryd byddwn yn gwybod yn union beth yw eich gweledigaeth ar gyfer cyflwyno hynny a beth fydd hyd a lled y coleg?

Jane Hutt: Janet, we need a strategic plan, not just a vision, for taking this forward. I have mentioned the funding that we have put

Jane Hutt: Janet, mae angen cynllun strategol arnom, nid dim ond gweledigaeth, ar gyfer mynd â hyn rhagddo. Yr wyf wedi

in to the Welsh-medium teaching development centre. We know that the network model is a step along the route to the federal college, because it is delivering Welsh-medium provision in HE, but it is the strategic approach that we will now take forward in the discussions that I am having, and I look forward to reporting on those.

Plant sydd ag Anawsterau Dysgu

C6 David Lloyd: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am y ddarpariaeth addysgol ar gyfer plant sydd ag anawsterau dysgu? OAQ(3)0329(CEL)

Jane Hutt: Mae cymorth ar gyfer plant ag anawsterau dysgu wedi'i nodi yn Neddf Addysg 1996 a chod ymarfer AAA Cymru. Hefyd, yr ydym wedi cael y pwerau angenrheidiol i gael cymhwysedd cyfreithiol llawn ym maes anghenion addysgol arbennig.

David Lloyd: Pa gynnydd a wnaed o ran gwella'r ddarpariaeth ar gyfer plant ag awtistiaeth, yn dilyn y strategaeth awtistiaeth?

1.30 p.m.

Jane Hutt: I am pleased that there will shortly be an announcement on the autism strategy. I am also looking forward to visiting and taking part in Autism Cymru's forthcoming conference. Clearly, the autism strategy, which will be a worldwide first for Wales, will make a difference. We have already, through previous budget allocations, given local authorities direct funding to address the needs of autistic spectrum disorder services in each local authority area.

Alun Cairns: The Assembly Government, and the Assembly as a whole, has rightly championed the needs of, and support for, children with special educational needs. That has certainly been the case in the Chamber, even if it has not been delivered, in some cases, outside. However, there is great worry among parents of children with special needs

sôn am y cyllid yr ydym wedi'i roi i'r ganolfan datblygu addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg. Yr ydym yn gwybod bod y model rhwydwaith yn gam ar hyd y llwybr at y coleg ffederal, oherwydd ei fod yn cyflwyno darpariaeth cyfrwng Cymraeg mewn addysg uwch, ond y dull gweithredu strategol y byddwn yn awr yn mynd ag ef rhagddo yn y trafodaethau yr wyf yn eu cael, ac edrychaf ymlaen at adrodd ar y rheini.

Children with Learning Difficulties

Q6 David Lloyd: Will the Minister make a statement on the educational provision for children with learning difficulties? OAQ(3)0329(CEL)

Jane Hutt: Support for children with learning difficulties is set out in the Education Act 1996 and the SEN code of practice for Wales. We have also secured the necessary powers to obtain full legal competence in the field of special educational needs.

David Lloyd: What progress has there been in terms of improving provision for children with autism, as a result of the autism strategy?

Jane Hutt: Yr wyf yn falch y bydd cyhoeddiad cyn bo hir ynghylch y strategaeth awtistiaeth. Yr wyf hefyd yn edrych ymlaen at fynd i gynhadledd Awtistiaeth Cymru a chymryd rhan ynddi. Yn amlwg, bydd y strategaeth awtistiaeth, y cyntaf o'i bath yn y byd, yn gwneud gwahaniaeth. Yr ydym eisoes, drwy ddyraniadau blaenorol yn y gyllideb, wedi rhoi cyllid uniongyrchol i awdurdodau lleol i fynd i'r afael ag anghenion gwasanaethau anhwylder yn y sbectrwm awtistig ym mhob ardal awdurdod lleol.

Alun Cairns: Mae Llywodraeth y Cynulliad, a'r Cynulliad drwyddi draw, a hynny'n gwbl briodol, wedi hyrwyddo anghenion plant ag anghenion addysgol arbennig ac wedi'u cefnogi. Dyna'n sicr yr hyn sydd wedi digwydd yn y Siambr, hyd yn oed os na gyflawnwyd hynny, mewn rhai achosion, y tu allan i'r Siambr. Fodd bynnag, mae rhieni

that the Assembly Government is seeking to reduce the number of statements on children with special needs. That was what was said in the report from the former, all-party Education and Lifelong Learning and Skills Committee. Will you give us your response? Are you seeking to reduce the number of statements on children with special needs from up to 5 per cent of children, as it is now, to 1 per cent or less, as suggested in that recommendation?

Jane Hutt: It is important that we look back at the review of special educational needs provision, which was undertaken by the former Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills Committee. It looked at the fundamental elements of the existing system and at statutory assessment and statementing, as you know. One of the recommendations called upon us, as an Assembly Government, to seek powers to secure full legal competence for statutory assessment arrangements. We have those powers and there is recognition that we must meet the needs of children and young people. That is where consultation with parents and carers must look at whether there are ways of being less bureaucratic and of securing better inter-agency co-operation. There is no question of entitlement to support or provision being taken away as a result of the consultation and initiatives on statements of special educational needs.

Alun Cairns: That was an answer to another question perhaps; it certainly was not an answer to the question that I asked. Minister, will you categorically tell us whether it is the Assembly Government's policy to reduce the proportion of statemented children—yes or no?

I will extend the point further. There is, without question, an awful lot of worry among parents of children with special needs that this is a threat hanging over them. There has been a great deal of welcome warm words of support for children with special educational needs and their parents, but they are seeing the provision being squeezed and the statement, therefore, as a last resort, but that last resort guarantees them their rights.

plant ag anghenion addysgol arbennig yn poeni'n arw bod Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn ceisio lleihau nifer y datganiadau ar gyfer plant ag anghenion arbennig. Dyna'r hyn a ddywedwyd mewn adroddiad gan yr hen Bwyllgor hollbleidiol Addysg, Dysgu Gydol Oed a Sgiliau. A wnewch roi eich ymateb inni? A ydych yn ceisio lleihau nifer y datganiadau ar gyfer plant ag anghenion arbennig o hyd at 5 y cant, fel y mae pethau ar hyn o bryd, i 1 y cant neu lai, fel yr awgrymir yn yr argymhelliad hwnnw?

Jane Hutt: Mae'n bwysig ein bod yn taro golwg arall ar yr adolygiad o ddarpariaeth anghenion addysgol arbennig, a wnaethpwyd gan yr hen Bwyllgor Addysg, Dysgu Gydol Oes a Sgiliau. Edrychodd ar elfennau sylfaenol y system bresennol, ar asesu statudol ac ar ddatganiadau, fel y gwyddoch. Un o'r argymhellion a gyflwynwyd inni, fel Llywodraeth y Cynulliad, oedd i geisio pwerau i gael cymhwysedd cyfreithiol llawn ar gyfer trefniadau asesu statudol. Mae'r pwerau hynny gennym a cheir cydnabyddiaeth ei bod yn rhaid inni ddiwallu anghenion plant a phobl ifanc. Bydd yn rhaid i'r ymgynghori â rhieni ac â gofawyr ganolbwyntio ar hynny i weld a oes modd bod yn llai biwrocraidd ac a ellir sicrhau gwell cydweithrediad rhwng asiantaethau. Nid oes unrhyw bosibilrwydd y byddant yn colli hawl i gael cefnogaeth neu ddarpariaeth o ganlyniad i'r ymgynghoriad a'r cynlluniau ar gyfer datganiadau anghenion addysgol arbennig.

Alun Cairns: Efallai mai ateb i gwestiwn arall oedd hwnnw; yn sicr nid oedd yn ateb i'r cwestiwn a ofynnais i. Weinidog, a wnewch ddweud wrthym yn ddi-flewyn ar dafod ai polisi Llywodraeth y Cynulliad fydd lleihau nifer y plant â datganiad—ie ynteu na?

Ymhelaethaf ar y pwynt hwn. Nid oes dwywaith bod rhieni plant ag anghenion arbennig yn poeni'n arw am y byggythiad hwn. Mae'r geiriau cynnes o gefnogaeth i blant ag anghenion addysgol arbennig a'u rhieni wedi cael cryn groeso, ond maent yn gweld y wasgfa ar y ddarpariaeth ac nid oes dewis arall heblaw datganiad, felly, yn niffyg dim arall o leiaf fod hwnnw'n gwarantu eu hawliau. Er gwaethaf y geiriau cynnes hynny,

In spite of those warm words, we are still seeing increased numbers of appeals to special educational needs tribunals. Can we try to square the circle? Is it your intention to reduce the number of statemented children? If so, do you have the resources to ensure that they will get their provision without a statement?

Jane Hutt: ‘Yes’ or ‘no’ answers never give a comprehensive response to the parents who, quite rightly and understandably, are concerned about the outcome of the consultation. There have been pre-consultation events across Wales, with parents, practitioners and the voluntary sector taking part. They have had the opportunity to input. We have said that any changes to the statementing regime should not result in a loss of assurance over the delivery of future provision. As I said, they need to be reassured that the legislative changes that we have secured will give us flexibility. Those changes will not take away services or entitlement; they are there to strengthen entitlements. Any kind of change that might happen to reduce bureaucracy, in terms of statementing procedures, will only be taken forward after an extensive period of consultation.

Y Llywydd: Tynnwyd cwestiwn 7, OAQ(3)0349(CEL), yn ôl.

Adequate Funding

Q8 Janice Gregory: Will the Minister explain the Government’s view on the educational importance of local authorities providing adequate funding to the schools for which they are responsible? OAQ(3)0380(CEL)

Jane Hutt: Education expenditure by local authorities in Wales in 2007-08 rose to over £2.2 billion, and I hope that all councils will continue to give the highest priority to education. Grant funding to local authorities in support of key education policy priorities includes a significant increase in specific grants to support schools in 2008-09.

Janice Gregory: I am sure you will agree that, in the Bridgend County Borough

yr ydym yn dal i weld mwy o apeliadau i dribiwnlysoedd anghenion addysgol arbennig. A allwn geisio gwneud yr amhosibl? Ai eich bwriad yw lleihau nifer y plant â datganiad? Os hynny, a yw’r adnoddau gennyh i sicrhau y byddant yn cael eu darpariaeth heb ddatganiad?

Jane Hutt: Nid yw atebion ‘ie’ neu ‘na’ byth yn rhoi ateb cynhwysfawr i rieni sydd, yn ddigon teg a dealladwy, yn poeni am ganlyniad yr ymgynghoriad. Mae digwyddiadau cyn ymgynghori wedi’u cynnal ledled Cymru, gyda rhieni, ymarferwyr a’r sector gwirfoddol yn cymryd rhan. Maent wedi cael cyfle i roi eu barn. Yr ydym wedi dweud na fydd unrhyw newidiadau i’r drefn datganiadau yn arwain at golli sicrwydd o dderbyn darpariaeth yn y dyfodol. Fel y dywedais, rhaid tawelu eu meddwl y bydd y newidiadau deddfwriaethol yr ydym wedi’u cael yn rhoi hyblygrwydd inni. Ni fydd y newidiadau hynny’n dileu gwasanaethau na’r hawl i’w cael; maent yno i gryfhau hawliau. Dim ond ar ôl cyfnod helaeth iawn o ymgynghori y gweithredir unrhyw newid a all ddigwydd i’r drefn ddatganiadau er mwyn lleihau biwrocratiaeth.

The Presiding Officer: Question 7, OAQ(3)0349(CEL), has been withdrawn.

Cyllid Digonol

C8 Janice Gregory: A wnaiff y Gweinidog esbonio safbwynt y Llywodraeth ar bwysigrwydd addysgol awdurdodau lleol yn darparu cyllid digonol i’r ysgolion y maent yn gyfrifol amdanynt? OAQ(3)0380(CEL)

Jane Hutt: Cododd gwariant ar addysg gan awdurdodau lleol yng Nghymru yn 2007-08 i dros £2.2 biliwn, a gobeithiaf y bydd pob cyngor yn parhau i roi’r flaenoriaeth bennaf i addysg. Mae cyllid grant i awdurdodau lleol i gefnogi blaenoriaethau polisi addysg allweddol yn cynnwys cynnydd sylweddol mewn grantiau penodol i gefnogi ysgolion yn 2008-09.

Janice Gregory: Yr wyf yn siŵr y cytunwch, yn ardal Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Pen-y-bont

Council area, we have continual cuts in school funding, which have left the area's schools among the worst funded per pupil in Wales, despite the fact that they received the second highest settlement from the Welsh Assembly Government. Do you agree that these continual cuts in education funding must have an adverse effect on the effectiveness of schools, notwithstanding the huge efforts made by the staff?

Jane Hutt: I would hope that all local authorities would heed my words on prioritising education services. They made substantial improvements for 2007-08, to the over £2.2 billion mark. Funding to schools is not the only input in terms of effective outcomes for education, but local authorities must put education first if they are to achieve the best outcomes for their children and young people.

Kirsty Williams: Minister, we have already heard concerns expressed by Members representing the Newport area this afternoon about the ability of their council to implement the foundation phase. Those concerns are not just being expressed in Newport; Ceredigion County Council believes that it will be £880,000 short in terms of its ability to implement the foundation phase, and Powys County Council, in my constituency, is £1 million short. Do you admit that your policy of implementing the foundation phase from September onwards is in serious trouble?

Jane Hutt: It certainly is not in serious trouble, Kirsty, and I repeat that this week and next week, meetings are being held between every local authority and director of education and my officials to work through the considerable allocation of additional funding of £107 million that is being made available to roll out the foundation phase.

Kirsty Williams: If the policy is not in trouble, why do your colleagues who represent areas such as Newport feel that it is necessary to express the concerns that have been expressed to them by their constituents? The reality is that you would not be having

ar Ogwr, yr ydym wedi wynebu toriadau parhaus mewn cyllid i ysgolion, ac mae hynny wedi arwain at sefyllfa lle mae ysgolion yr ardal ymhlith y gwaethaf yng Nghymru o ran cyllid y pen i ddisgyblion, er gwaethaf y ffaith eu bod wedi cael y setliad ail uchaf gan Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru. A ydych yn cytuno ei bod yn anochel bod y toriadau parhaus hyn mewn cyllid ar gyfer addysg yn cael effaith andwyol ar effeithiolrwydd ysgolion, er gwaethaf yr ymdrech arwrol gan y staff?

Jane Hutt: Byddwn yn gobeithio bod pob awdurdod lleol yn gwranddo ar fy ngeiriau o ran blaenoriaethu gwasanaethau addysg. Gwnaethant welliannau sylweddol yn 2007-08, gan wario dros £2.2 biliwn. Nid rhoi cyllid i ysgolion yw'r unig fewnbwn o ran sicrhau canlyniadau effeithiol ar gyfer addysg, ond rhaid i awdurdodau lleol roi blaenoriaeth i addysg os ydynt am gyflawni'r canlyniadau gorau i'w plant a'u pobl ifanc.

Kirsty Williams: Weinidog, yr ydym eisoes wedi clywed pryderon a fynegwyd gan Aelodau sy'n cynrychioli ardal Casnewydd y prynhawn yma ynghylch gallu eu cyngor i roi'r cyfnod sylfaen ar waith. Nid yng Nghasnewydd yn unig y mae'r amheuan hynny'n cael eu lleisio; mae Cyngor Sir Ceredigion yn credu y bydd £880,000 yn brin o ran ei allu i roi'r cyfnod sylfaen ar waith, ac mae Cyngor Sir Powys, yn fy etholaeth, yn £1 miliwn yn brin. A ydych yn cyfaddef bod eich polisi o roi'r cyfnod sylfaen ar waith o fis Medi ymlaen yn y fantol?

Jane Hutt: Yn sicr, nid yw yn y fantol, Kirsty, a dywedaf unwaith eto fod cyfarfodydd yn cael eu cynnal yr wythnos hon a'r wythnos nesaf rhwng pob awdurdod lleol a chyfarwyddwr addysg a'm swyddogion er mwyn gweithio ar y dyraniad sylweddol o gyllid ychwanegol sef £107 miliwn a fydd yn cael ei ryddhau er mwyn rhoi'r cyfnod sylfaen ar waith.

Kirsty Williams: Os nad yw'r polisi yn y fantol, pam mae eich cyd-Aelodau sy'n cynrychioli ardaloedd megis Casnewydd yn teimlo bod angen lleisio'r pryderon sydd wedi cael eu mynegi iddynt gan eu hetholwyr? Y gwir plaen amdani yw na

these meetings with the consortia if you did not accept that your policy is in trouble. Councils, directors of education, teachers, parents and governors across Wales are expressing concern that the shared aims that were signed up to for the implementation of the foundation phase will not be realised. The staffing ratios will not be realised, the resources will not be there and the staff will not be properly trained. That is why you are having the meetings this week, and it would do us the world of good if you admitted that we are in difficulties, and that you are holding these meetings to try to iron those difficulties out, so that in September our pupils will not be let down.

Jane Hutt: I am always grateful when Assembly Members from across all political parties alert me to any concerns or issues. They are understandable; we are rolling out a transformational programme of early education. There were huge issues when we rolled out the reduction in class sizes programme; everyone said that it could not be done and that there was not enough money. It is inevitable that people will say that. However, we delivered on the reduction in class sizes and we will deliver on the foundation phase. That is why I have insisted that my officials work with local authorities across Wales, and I shall meet not only with the Welsh Local Government Association and the Association of Directors of Education in Wales, but also with the teachers unions, which are important in terms of delivery. I am taking a partnership approach to rolling out the foundation phase.

Small Schools

Q9 Brynle Williams: Will the Minister make a statement on the Welsh Assembly Government's plans for small schools in north Wales? OAQ(3)0366(CEL)

Jane Hutt: As promised in 'One Wales', we are continuing the existing grant arrangements for small schools to support innovative ways of working and to encourage the greater community use of school buildings. A sum of £4.1 million is available this year.

fyddech yn cael y cyfarfodydd hyn gyda'r consortia pe na fyddech yn derbyn bod eich polisi yn y fantol. Mae cynghorau, cyfarwyddwyr addysg, athrawon, rhieni a llywodraethwyr ledled Cymru yn mynegi pryder na fydd y nodau cyffredinol yr ymrwymwyd iddynt ar gyfer rhoi'r cyfnod sylfaen ar waith yn cael eu gwireddu. Ni chaiff y cymarebau staffio eu gwireddu, ni fydd yr adnoddau ar gael ac ni fydd y staff wedi cael yr hyfforddiant priodol. Dyna pam eich bod yn cael y cyfarfodydd yr wythnos yma, a byddai'n gwneud byd o les petaech yn cyfaddef ein bod yn wynebu anawsterau, a'ch bod yn cynnal y cyfarfodydd hyn i geisio datrys yr anawsterau hynny, fel na fydd ein disgyblion ar eu colled ym mis Medi.

Jane Hutt: Yr wyf bob amser yn ddiolchgar pan fydd Aelodau Cynulliad o bob plaid yn tynnu fy sylw at unrhyw bryderon neu faterion. Maent yn ddealladwy; yr ydym yn cyflwyno rhaglen a fydd yn gweddnewid addysg gynnar. Daethom ar draws materion anferth wrth inni gyflwyno'r rhaglen i leihau maint dosbarthiadau; yr oedd pawb o'r farn na ellid ei wneud ac nad oedd digon o arian ar gael. Mae'n anochel y bydd pobl yn dweud hynny. Fodd bynnag, gwnaethom lwyddo i leihau maint dosbarthiadau a byddwn yn llwyddo gyda'r cyfnod sylfaen. Dyna pam yr wyf wedi mynnu bod fy swyddogion yn gweithio gydag awdurdodau lleol ledled Cymru, a byddaf yn cwrdd nid yn unig â Chymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru a Chymdeithas Cyfarwyddwyr Addysg Cymru, ond hefyd ag undebau athrawon, sydd mor bwysig o ran cyflwyno'r rhaglen. Yr wyf yn arddel dull o weithio mewn partneriaeth i gyflwyno'r cyfnod sylfaen.

Ysgolion Bach

C9 Brynle Williams: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am gynlluniau Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru ar gyfer ysgolion bach yn y gogledd? OAQ(3)0366(CEL)

Jane Hutt: Fel y cytunwyd yn 'Cymru'n Un', yr ydym yn parhau â'r trefniadau grant presennol ar gyfer ysgolion bach er mwyn cefnogi dulliau arloesol o weithio ac i annog y gymuned i ddefnyddio rhagor ar adeiladau ysgolion. Mae £4.1 miliwn ar gael eleni.

Brynle Williams: Do you agree that the benefits of small class sizes offered by small schools, particularly in rural areas in north Wales, are substantial? In light of the pivotal roles that these small schools play in sustaining *yr iaith*, the Welsh language, where it is strongest, how can the Welsh Assembly Government justify doing little when such schools are being closed? Do you and your coalition partners in Plaid Cymru accept the view of the Reynolds report that closing small schools such as those in Gwynedd is overwhelmingly beneficial?

Brynle Williams: A ydych yn cytuno bod y manteision a geir mewn dosbarthiadau bach a gynigir gan ysgolion bach, yn enwedig yn yr ardaloedd gwledig ac yn y gogledd, yn sylweddol? A chofio'r swyddogaethau hollbwysig y mae'r ysgolion bach hynny'n eu cyfrannu at gynnal yr iaith, sef yr iaith Gymraeg, yn y cadarnleoedd, sut y gall Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru gyfiawnhau gwneud cyn lleied pan fydd ysgolion o'r fath yn cael eu cau? A ydych chi a Phlaid Cymru, eich partneriaid yn y glymblaid, yn derbyn safbwynt adroddiad Reynolds bod cau ysgolion bach fel y rheini yng Ngwynedd yn beth mor aruthrol o fuddiol?

1.40 p.m.

Jane Hutt: Our policy on small schools seeks to strike a balance. We recognise that small rural schools are likely to remain a feature of the school system in Wales for the foreseeable future, but we must also acknowledge that, in some instances, alternative arrangements, including school closures and the creation of larger-area schools, will be in the best interests of local children. We are introducing revised guidance on school re-organisation to take account of developments since 2002. That will set out how we can make the best use of resources for the benefit of pupils and will make clear the need to consider the opportunities that we have in terms of the way forward.

Jane Hutt: Mae ein polisi ar ysgolion bach yn ceisio taro cydbwysedd. Yr ydym yn cydnabod bod ysgolion bach gwledig yn debygol o barhau'n nodwedd o'r system ysgolion yng Nghymru am gryn amser eto, ond rhaid inni hefyd gydnabod, mewn rhai amgylchiadau, y bydd trefniadau eraill, gan gynnwys cau ysgolion a chreu ysgolion ardal mwy, er lles gorau'r plant lleol. Yr ydym yn cyflwyno arweiniad diwygiedig ar aildrefnu ysgolion i roi sylw i ddatblygiadau er 2002. Bydd hwnnw'n nodi sut y gallwn fanteisio i'r eithaf ar adnoddau er lles y disgyblion a bydd yn pennu'n glir yr angen i bwysu a mesur y cyfleoedd sydd gennym o ran y ffordd ymlaen.

I also expect to consult on draft regulations later this year that will allow the creation of federated governing bodies where a single governing body has responsibility for two or more separate schools. Depending on responses, I hope that those regulations will come into force in spring 2009.

Yr wyf hefyd yn disgwyl ymgynghori ar reoliadau drafft yn nes ymlaen eleni a fydd yn galluogi creu cyrff llywodraethu ffederal, lle bydd un corff llywodraethu'n ysgwyddo cyfrifoldeb dros ddwy neu fwy o ysgolion ar wahân. A dibynnu ar yr ymatebion, gobeithiaf y bydd y rheoliadau hynny'n dod i rym yng ngwanwyn 2009.

Adroddiad Syr Adrian Webb

Sir Adrian Webb's Report

C10 Alun Ffred Jones: A wnaiff y Gweinidog ddatganiad am amserlen y Llywodraeth i ymateb i adroddiad Syr Adrian Webb? OAQ(3)0354(CEL)

Q10 Alun Ffred Jones: Will the Minister make a statement on the Welsh Assembly Government's timetable to respond to Sir Adrian Webb's report? OAQ(3)0354(CEL)

Y Dirprwy Weinidog dros Sgiliau (John Griffiths): Caiff yr ymateb i'r adolygiad

The Deputy Minister for Skills (John Griffiths): The response to the independent

annibynnol a arweiniwyd gan Syr Adrian Webb ei gynnwys yn y strategaeth Sgiliau sy'n Gweithio i Gymru, sydd ar y gweill. Cafwyd ymateb ardderchog i'r ymgynghoriad. Ar ôl i ni ystyried yr adborth, bwriadwn gyhoeddi'r strategaeth ar gyfer sgiliau a chyflogaeth yn ystod Mehefin neu Orffennaf.

Alun Ffred Jones: Edrychwn ymlaen at weld y cyhoeddiad hwnnw. Wedi siarad â rhai prifathrawon a phobl sy'n weithredol yn y maes, yr wyf wedi gweld eu bod yn awyddus i'r Llywodraeth roi arweiniad clir a diamwys yn y maes hwn, gan fod y newidiadau a argymhellir gan yr adroddiad yn bellgyrhaeddol ac y byddant yn effeithio'n ddirfawr ar y math o wasanaeth a gynigir. A fydd y Llywodraeth yn rhoi arweiniad clir ledled Cymru? Heb yr arweiniad hwnnw, mae perygl na fydd cyrff llywodraethu yn fodlon mynd i'r afael â'r problemau os nad oes sicrwydd bod ewyllys i gyflawni'r newidiadau.

John Griffiths: We have to go through a proper process, which is what we are doing at present. Obviously, we have to consider all of the consultation responses. As an administration, we accept that once we go through that process, it is our responsibility to give a clear lead on the way forward. We propose to give that clear lead in the action plan that will include our response to the Webb and Leitch reports, along with a general way forward, pulling together all aspects of policy and the extra powers and abilities that we will have to shape the agenda. We have a strong will to recognise the value of the work carried out by Sir Adrian Webb and others. As you mentioned, Alun Ffred, it is a huge step forward for provision in Wales. We commissioned that independent report because we felt that there was a need to make the big step forward that will eliminate much of the duplication and will involve a much better use of resource. Therefore, we are still fully committed to that, but as I said, there is a necessary and due process that we must follow.

We have to balance the need to provide a clear lead with a recognition of local

review led by Sir Adrian Webb will be captured in the forthcoming Skills that Work for Wales strategy. Response to the consultation has been excellent. Having considered the feedback, we plan to publish the strategy for skills and employment in June or July.

Alun Ffred Jones: We look forward to seeing that publication. Having spoken to some headteachers and others active in the field, I have found that they are keen for the Government to give them a clear and unambiguous lead on this issue, given that the changes recommended in the report are far-reaching and will have significant implications for the kind of service that will be on offer. Will the Government be giving that clear lead across Wales? Without it, there is a danger that governing bodies will not be willing to tackle the problems without an assurance that the will exists to implement the changes.

John Griffiths: Rhaid inni fynd drwy'r broses gywir, sef yr hyn a wnawn ar hyn o bryd. Yn amlwg, rhaid inni ystyried pob un ymateb i'r ymgynghoriad. Fel gweinyddiaeth, derbyniwn ar ôl inni fynd drwy'r broses honno, ein cyfrifoldeb fydd rhoi arweiniad clir ar y ffordd ymlaen. Cynigwn roi'r arweiniad clir hwnnw yn y cynllun gweithredu a fydd yn cynnwys ein hymateb i'r adroddiadau Webb a Leitch, yn ogystal â'r ffordd ymlaen yn gyffredinol, gan dynnu ynghyd pob agwedd ar bolisi a'r pwerau a'r galluoedd ychwanegol a fydd gennym i lunio'r agenda. Yr ydym yn teimlo'n gryf ei bod yn rhaid cydnabod gwerth y gwaith a wnaethpwyd gan Syr Adrian Webb ac eraill. Fel y dywedaso, Alun Ffred, mae'n gam anferth ymlaen ar gyfer darpariaeth yng Nghymru. Gwnaethom gomisiynu'r adroddiad annibynnol hwnnw oherwydd teimlasom fod angen cymryd y cam mawr ymlaen er mwyn dileu llawer o'r dyblygu ac i ddefnyddio'r adnoddau mewn ffordd well o lawer. Felly, yr ydym yn dal yn hollol ymrwymedig i hynny, ond fel y dywedais, ceir proses angenrheidiol a phriodol y mae'n rhaid inni ei dilyn.

Rhaid inni gael cydbwysedd rhwng yr angen i ddarparu arweiniad clir a chydnabod bod

circumstances around Wales and the need for a feeding up through the local networks that we have established and delivered to date, to enable a proper balance to be struck in our giving a clear lead while taking into account what those local networks and partnerships want to happen.

Emotional Wellbeing

Q11 Val Lloyd: What is the Minister doing to support the emotional wellbeing of children and young people? OAQ(3)0326(CEL)

Jane Hutt: We have a range of initiatives to promote the emotional wellbeing of children and young people. We published our national strategy for school-based counselling on 2 April 2008. That is the first of its kind in the United Kingdom and it aims to set up a national service.

Val Lloyd: Thank you, Minister. That was a welcome announcement. I am sure that you are aware that Mind Cymru recently called for one member of staff in each school, be it a teacher or a school nurse, to receive appropriate awareness training in order to be able to spot the warning signs of young people who may be self-harming. Will that training be incorporated in the school-based counselling services?

Jane Hutt: I will certainly be taking this proposal back to my officials so that they can look at it in the context of the school-based counselling service. We have allocated £6.5 million. There is £1 million for the first year to look specifically at training and provision. Across local authorities, the children and young people's partnerships are taking the lead on this, and I will ensure that the Mind report is fed into it.

Helen Mary Jones: Minister, you will be aware of the Incredible Years programme that promotes good parenting and emotional intelligence in schools, which is being rolled out across all schools in the Gwynedd Council area. It is being independently

amgylchiadau lleol yn bodoli ledled Cymru, yn ogystal â'r angen i fwydo gwybodaeth i fyny drwy'r rhwydweithiau lleol yr ydym wedi'u sefydlu a'u gweithredu hyd yn hyn, er mwyn sicrhau cydbwysedd priodol rhwng darparu arweiniad clir a chadw mewn cof yr hyn y mae'r rhwydweithiau a'r partneriaethau lleol hyn am ei weld yn digwydd.

Lles Emosiynol

C11 Val Lloyd: Beth mae'r Gweinidog yn ei wneud i gefnogi lles emosiynol plant a phobl ifanc? OAQ(3)0326(CEL)

Jane Hutt: Mae gennym amrywiaeth o gynlluniau i hyrwyddo lles emosiynol plant a phobl ifanc. Cyhoeddassom ein strategaeth genedlaethol ar gyfer cwnsela yn yr ysgol ar 2 Ebrill 2008. Dyma'r cyntaf o'i bath yn y Deyrnas Unedig a'i nod yw creu gwasanaeth cenedlaethol.

Val Lloyd: Diolch, Weiniidog. Yr oedd y cyhoeddiad hwnnw'n un i'w groesawu. Yr wyf yn siŵr eich bod yn ymwybodol bod Mind Cymru wedi dweud yn ddiweddar bod angen i un aelod o staff ym mhob ysgol, boed yn athro neu athrawes neu'n nyrs ysgol, gael hyfforddiant ymwybyddiaeth priodol er mwyn gallu canfod arwyddion rhybudd ymhlith pobl ifanc a allai fod yn niweidio'u hunain. A fydd yr hyfforddiant hwnnw'n cael ei gynnwys yn y gwasanaethau cwnsela mewn ysgolion?

Jane Hutt: Byddaf yn sicr yn mynd â'r cynnig hwn yn ôl i'm swyddogion fel y bydd modd iddynt edrych arno yng nghyd-destun y gwasanaeth cwnsela mewn ysgolion. Yr ydym wedi dyrannu £6.5 miliwn. Mae £1 miliwn ar gyfer y flwyddyn gyntaf er mwyn edrych yn benodol ar hyfforddi a darparu. Mae'r partneriaethau plant a phobl ifanc yn arwain ar y mater hwn ym mhob awdurdod lleol, a byddaf yn sicrhau bod adroddiad Mind yn cael ei fwydo i mewn iddo.

Helen Mary Jones: Weiniidog, byddwch yn ymwybodol o raglen y Blynyddoedd Anhygoel sy'n hybu rhianta da a deallusrwydd emosiynol mewn ysgolion, ac sy'n cael ei chyflwyno'n raddol i bob ysgol yn ardal Cyngor Gwynedd. Mae'n cael ei

monitored by Bangor University. With regard to promoting emotional wellbeing through schools, will you look at the Gwynedd experience to see whether lessons could be learned and rolled out to other counties in Wales?

Jane Hutt: That particular scheme was pioneered by Judy Hutchings of Bangor University. I recently attended an evaluation of the programme, which is now being rolled out across Wales because it is one of the programmes that the Welsh Assembly Government endorses. Cymorth, the children and young people's partnerships and the parenting strategies are using this very effectively. It can also feed into our new school-based counselling service.

monitro'n annibynnol gan Brifysgol Bangor. O safbwynt hybu lles emosiynol drwy ysgolion, a wnewch chi edrych ar y profiad yng Ngwynedd er mwyn gweld a ellid dysgu gwersi a'u cyflwyno'n raddol i siroedd eraill yng Nghymru?

Jane Hutt: Yr oedd y cynllun arbennig hwnnw'n gynllun arloesol dan arweiniad Judy Hutchings o Brifysgol Bangor. Mynychais werthusiad o'r rhaglen yn ddiweddar, ac mae'n cael ei chyflwyno'n raddol ym mhob rhan o Gymru erbyn hyn gan ei bod yn un o'r rhaglenni y mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru'n ei chefnogi. Mae Cymorth, y partneriaethau plant a phobl ifanc a'r strategaethau rhianta'n defnyddio hyn yn effeithiol iawn. Gall hefyd fwydo i mewn i'n gwasanaeth cwnsela newydd mewn ysgolion.

Datganiad gan y Llywydd Statement by the Presiding Officer

Y Llywydd: Mae'n dda gennyf wneud datganiad am ganlyniad y ddau falot a gynhaliwyd heddiw. Yr oedd y cyntaf ar gyfer Gorchymyn cymhwysedd deddfwriaethol arfaethedig, a Peter Black oedd yr enillydd gyda'i gynnig i ddiwygio trefniadau etholiadol llywodraeth leol. Peter Black hefyd oedd enillydd y balot ar gyfer Mesur arfaethedig gyda'i gynnig o ran gwasanaethau ieuencid. Daw hynny â ni i gyfanswm o 10 o gynigion gan Aelodau am Orchmynion a Mesurau arfaethedig.

The Presiding Officer: I am pleased to be able to announce the results of the two ballots that were held today. The first ballot was for a proposed legislative competence Order, and it was won by Peter Black with his proposal to reform local government electoral arrangements. The ballot for a proposed Measure was also won by Peter Black, with his proposal on youth services. That brings us to a total of 10 bids for Member proposed Orders and Measures.

Yng ngoleuni sylwadau rhai pobl y tu allan i'r Cynulliad hwn, credaf y byddai'n briodol inni longyfarch ein hunain ar y camau breision yr ydym yn eu cymryd tuag at ddeddfu.

In light of the comments made by some people outside the Assembly, I feel it would be appropriate for us to congratulate ourselves on the great strides that we are taking towards legislating.

*Daeth y Dirprwy Lywydd (Rosemary Butler) i'r Gadair am 1.48 p.m.
The Deputy Presiding Officer (Rosemary Butler) took the Chair at 1.48 p.m.*

Dadl y Ceidwadwyr Cymreig Welsh Conservatives Debate

Byrddau Iechyd Lleol Local Health Boards

The Deputy Presiding Officer: I have selected amendments 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 in the

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Yr wyf wedi dethol gwelliannau 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 a 6 yn enw Kirsty

name of Kirsty Williams.

Jonathan Morgan: I propose that

the National Assembly for Wales agrees that the Assembly Government was wrong to restructure the NHS into 22 local health boards. (NDM3909)

I wish to explain why this motion was tabled. We have seen some major changes in the health service since the advent of devolution. One of those changes came about after a great deal of consultation back in 2001. Following a debate here in 2003, the NHS was restructured from five health authorities into 22 health boards. Now, after five years, the Government has changed its mind; it feels that we need to get rid of these 22 health boards and replace them with eight health boards.

I want the Assembly to accept that the Welsh Assembly Government was wrong to restructure the NHS into 22 local health boards, and I would like the Government and the Minister to admit that a mistake was made five or six years ago when the plans were being considered. If people are to have faith in this institution and in the Government of Wales, the Government needs to be mature enough to apologise for the mistake that was made.

Two weeks ago today, Edwina Hart announced the greatest radical shake-up of the way in which the NHS is run since the last greatest radical shake-up, some five years ago. In fact, the proposals that were announced for consultation some two weeks ago are grander than the proposals introduced when Jane Hutt was Minister for Health and Social Services. The proposal to reduce 22 local health boards to eight, the proposals to create an all-Wales board, and the proposals on taking community care services out of NHS trusts represent a huge departure from how the NHS is being run at the moment.

1.50 p.m.

However, in the past two weeks, the

Williams.

Jonathan Morgan: Cynigiad fod

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru yn cytuno bod Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn anghywir i ailstrwythuro'r GIG yn 22 o fyrddau iechyd lleol. (NDM3909)

Hoffwn egluro pam y cyflwynwyd y cynnig hwn. Yr ydym wedi gweld newidiadau mawr yn y gwasanaeth iechyd ers dyddiau datganoli. Digwyddodd un o'r newidiadau hynny yn dilyn llawer iawn o ymgynghori yn ôl yn 2001. Yn dilyn dadl yma yn 2003, cafodd y GIG ei ailstrwythuro o bum awdurdod iechyd i 22 bwrdd iechyd. Bellach, ar ôl pum mlynedd, mae'r Llywodraeth wedi newid ei meddwl; mae'n teimlo bod angen inni gael gwared ar y 22 bwrdd iechyd hyn a sefydlu wyth bwrdd iechyd yn eu lle.

Yr wyf am i'r Cynulliad dderbyn bod Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru wedi gwneud camgymeriad wrth ailstrwythuro'r GIG yn 22 bwrdd iechyd lleol, a hoffwn weld y Llywodraeth a'r Gweinidog yn cyfaddef bod camgymeriad wedi cael ei wneud bum neu chwe blynedd yn ôl pan oedd y cynlluniau'n cael eu hystyried. Os ydym am i bobl fod â ffydd yn y sefydliad hwn ac yn Llywodraeth Cymru, mae angen i'r Llywodraeth fod yn ddigon aeddfed i ymddiheuro am y camgymeriad a wnaethpwyd.

Bythefnos yn ôl i heddiw, cyhoeddodd Edwina Hart yr ad-drefniad mwyaf radical o'r ffordd y mae'r GIG yn cael ei redeg ers yr ad-drefniad mwyaf radical diwethaf, bum mlynedd yn ôl. Mewn gwirionedd, mae'r cynigion a gyhoeddwyd ar gyfer ymgynghoriad bythefnos yn ôl yn fwy na'r cynigion a gyflwynwyd pan oedd Jane Hutt yn Weinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol. Mae'r cynnig i leihau nifer y byrddau iechyd lleol o 22 i wyth, y cynigion i greu bwrdd ar gyfer Cymru gyfan, a'r cynigion ar gyfer mynd â gwasanaethau gofal cymunedol oddi wrth ymddiriedolaethau'r GIG yn wahanol iawn i'r ffordd y mae'r GIG yn cael ei redeg ar hyn o bryd.

Fodd bynnag, yn y pythefnos diwethaf, nid

Assembly Government has made no attempt to bring these proposals to the National Assembly for a debate. That is scandalous. If you believe in the devolution project, in democracy, and in the right of Assembly Members to discuss and debate important changes to the way that social services and healthcare are delivered in Wales, you will agree that that announcement should have been made to this body and not to the press, when the Minister was absent, with no member of the Labour Government willing to make a public statement on it. However, we have had no opportunity to discuss these proposals in the Assembly, and that is why we tabled this motion for debate today.

My party has remained resolute in its opposition to the flawed idea that 22 local health boards would be a sustainable or workable idea for the health service. From the outset, when the announcement was first made in 2001, and in the Assembly debates that took place in 2003, it was abundantly clear that 22 separate commissioning bodies would be an extravagant duplication of process and effort. No doubt, over the past five years, it has cost the taxpayers of Wales millions of pounds. However, to correct that mistake, millions of pounds will have to be spent, if the Government is to get the structure that it wants.

Recent developments in the NHS have demonstrated the difficulty of having such a plethora of small commissioning organisations. With all due credit to the Minister, she recognised that as soon as she was appointed. The dental contract and the GP contract have both been difficult for LHBs to manage, and particularly difficult for the smaller LHBs to get to grips with. Many local health boards in Wales are reporting difficulties in managing their obligations under the GP contract. Added to that, Wales has suffered from systemic difficulties with the postcode lottery of the availability of modern medicines, with different LHBs deciding to take different courses of action. A postcode lottery in a nation the size of Wales is nonsensical, and the 22 local health boards are the sole reason

yw Llywodraeth y Cynulliad wedi gwneud unrhyw ymdrech i ddod â'r cynigion hyn i'r Cynulliad Cenedlaethol ar gyfer dadl. Mae hynny'n gywilyddus. Os ydych yn credu yn y prosiect datganoli, mewn democratiaeth, ac yn hawl Aelodau Cynulliad i drafod a chael dadl ar newidiadau pwysig i'r ffordd y mae gwasanaethau cymdeithasol a gofal iechyd yn cael eu darparu yng Nghymru, byddwch yn cytuno y dylai'r cyhoeddiad hwnnw fod wedi cael ei wneud i'r corff hwn ac nid i'r wasg, pan oedd y Gweinidog yn absennol, a dim un aelod o'r Llywodraeth Lafur yn barod i wneud datganiad cyhoeddus arno. Fodd bynnag, nid ydym wedi cael cyfle i drafod y cynigion hyn yn y Cynulliad, a dyna pam yr ydym wedi cyflwyno'r cynnig hwn ar gyfer dadl heddiw.

Mae fy mhlaid yn dal i wrthwynebu'n gryf y syniad diffygiol y byddai 22 bwrdd iechyd lleol yn syniad cynaliadwy neu ymarferol i'r gwasanaeth iechyd. Yr oedd yn berffaith glir o'r cychwyn, pan wnaethpwyd y cyhoeddiad am y tro cyntaf yn 2001, ac yn y dadleuon a gynhaliwyd yn y Cynulliad yn 2003, y byddai 22 corff comisiynu ar wahân yn dyblygu prosesau a gwaith mewn modd gwastraffus iawn. Mae'n siŵr ei fod wedi costio miliynau o bunnoedd i drethdalwyr Cymru dros y pum mlynedd diwethaf. Fodd bynnag, er mwyn cywiro'r camgymeriad hwnnw, bydd angen gwario miliynau o bunnoedd, os yw'r Llywodraeth am gael y strwythur y mae'n awyddus i'w gael.

Mae datblygiadau diweddar yn y GIG wedi dangos pa mor anodd yw cael cynifer o sefydliadau comisiynu bychain. Â phob dyledus glod i'r Gweinidog, cydnabu hynny cyn gynted ag y penodwyd hi. Mae'r contract deintyddol a'r contract meddygon teulu ill dau wedi bod yn anodd i'r BILlau eu rheoli, ac yn anodd iawn i'r BILlau llai fynd i'r afael â hwy. Mae llawer o fyrddau iechyd lleol yng Nghymru'n dweud eu bod yn cael anawsterau wrth geisio rheoli eu cyfrifoldebau dan y contract meddygon teulu. Ar ben hynny, mae Cymru wedi dioddef anawsterau systemig o ran y loteri cod post ar gyfer y meddyginiaethau modern sydd ar gael, gyda gwahanol BILlau yn penderfynu gweithredu mewn gwahanol ffyrdd. Nid yw loteri cod post mewn gwlad o faint Cymru'n gwneud unrhyw synnwyr, a'r 22 bwrdd iechyd lleol

why people now receive different standards of care, depending on where they live in Wales.

As a party, we are no longer alone in our view, as can be seen from this public and embarrassing u-turn from the Labour/Plaid Government. The people of Wales want to know why it took so long for the penny to drop, and for the Government to reverse this disastrous misjudgment. You were warned. Five years ago when the Assembly voted on this proposal, you were warned that it would not work. You were warned by the British Dental Association, which told you that dental practices in Wales would suffer because LHBs would have zero capacity to deal with dental issues. You were warned by community health councils, which told you that local health boards lacked the capacity to do the complex job of commissioning and funding those important areas of responsibility. You were told by the NHS Confederation that it could foresee political interference.

Individuals such as Jonathan Osborne, the former chair of the British Medical Association's Welsh consultants' committee, have been vocal about Cardiff bay making such a huge, costly mistake in replacing the five health authorities with 22 local health boards, none of which, he said, had led to an improvement in patient care. Instead, there has been a 35 per cent increase in the number of NHS managers, none of whom could treat a single patient. You were warned. You were told that this would not work, and the past five years have demonstrated that that mistake has proved costly for the national health service and for patients.

Let us remind ourselves of what happened all those years ago, back in 2001, when the decision was taken by the Minister for Health and Social Services at the time, Jane Hutt.

'The plan entitled 'Improving Health in

yw'r unig reswm pam y mae pobl yn cael safonau gofal gwahanol yn awr, gan ddibynnu ym mhle yng Nghymru y maent yn byw.

Fel plaid, nid ni yw'r unig rai sy'n credu hyn bellach, fel y gwelir o'r tro pedol cyhoeddus ac annifyr hwn gan Lywodraeth Llafur/Plaid. Mae ar bobl Cymru eisiau gwybod pam y mae wedi cymryd cymaint o amser iddynt sylweddoli hyn, ac i'r Llywodraeth wrthdroi'r gamfarn drychinebus hon. Cawsoch eich rhybuddio. Bum mlynedd yn ôl, pan bleidleisiodd y Cynulliad ar y cynnig hwn, cawsoch eich rhybuddio na fyddai'n gweithio. Cawsoch eich rhybuddio gan Gymdeithas Ddeintyddol Prydain, a ddywedodd wrthyh y byddai practisiau deintyddol yng Nghymru'n dioddef gan na fyddai BILlau yn gallu ymdrin â materion deintyddol. Cawsoch eich rhybuddio gan gynghorau iechyd cymuned, a ddywedodd wrthyh nad oedd gan fyrddau iechyd lleol y gallu i ymgymryd â'r gwaith cymhleth o gomisiynu ac ariannu'r meysydd cyfrifoldeb pwysig hynny. Dywedodd Cydffederasiwn y GIG wrthyh y gallai ragweld ymyriad gwleidyddol.

Mae unigolion fel Jonathan Osborne, cyn gadeirydd pwyllgor ymgynghorwyr Cymreig Cymdeithas Feddygol Prydain, wedi cyfeirio at y camgymeriad mawr a chostus a wnaethpwyd gan fae Caerdydd pan ddisodlwyd y pum awdurdod iechyd a chyflwyno 22 bwrdd iechyd lleol, nad oes yr un ohonynt, meddai ef, wedi arwain at welliant mewn gofal cleifion. Yn lle hynny, gwelwyd cynnydd o 35 y cant yn nifer y rheolwyr yn y GIG, na allai'r un ohonynt drin unrhyw glaf. Cawsoch eich rhybuddio. Dywedwyd wrthyh na fyddai hyn yn gweithio, ac mae'r pum mlynedd diwethaf wedi dangos bod y camgymeriad hwnnw wedi bod yn un costus i'r gwasanaeth iechyd gwladol ac i gleifion.

Gadewch inni atgoffa'n hunain o'r hyn a ddigwyddodd yr holl flynyddoedd hynny yn ôl, yn 2001, pan wnaethpwyd y penderfyniad gan y Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol ar y pryd, Jane Hutt.

'Bydd y cynllun 'Gwella Iechyd yng

Wales', will provide a sense of renewal and purpose for our national health service in Wales over the next ten years.'

Only five years into the scheme, the Government has had to admit that it simply is not working, and has had to make a most embarrassing climbdown from the position that it took when LHBs were introduced. Jane Hutt also said at the time,

'To summarise, the changes that I have announced this morning will mean a health service in Wales in which bureaucracy is reduced, accountability is clearer and the system is made easier to understand.'

Nothing could have been further from the truth. Now, the present Minister for Health and Social Services, who happily voted in favour of the introduction of 22 local health boards at the time, has had to admit that the system is too bureaucratic, accountability is simply not clear, and no-one understands how the system works, especially the patients. The rationale behind the decision to establish the 22 local health boards has been used to demonstrate that those 22 local health boards were a big mistake, and that they were, simply, a mistake.

The Minister for health at the time—and I remember the Plenary debates from 2003—said that the new system would be fairer,

'based on partnership and underpinned by a concern for quality, equality and effectiveness'.

She also said that it would be coterminous with local government.

That was the rationale for the change five years ago. However, these tests are now the real reasons why the Government has had to concede that 22 local health boards cannot do the job. The Government ought to be mature and grown-up enough to accept that what was done all those years ago simply has not worked. The 22 LHBs have not produced a system that displays the quality of provision. There has not been equality, and there certainly has not been effectiveness.

Nghymru' yn rhoi ymdeimlad o adnewyddu a phwrpas i'n gwasanaeth iechyd gwladol yng Nghymru dros y deng mlynedd nesaf.'

Bum mlynedd yn unig ers sefydlu'r cynllun, mae'r Llywodraeth wedi gorfod cyfaddef nad yw'n gweithio, ac wedi gorfod camu i lawr yn annifyr iawn o'r llwyfan a gododd iddi'i hun pan gyflwynwyd y BILlau. Dywedodd Jane Hutt hefyd bryd hynny,

'I grynhoi, bydd y newidiadau a gyhoeddais y bore yma yn golygu gwasanaeth iechyd yng Nghymru gyda llai o fiwrocratiaeth, atebolrwydd cliriach a bydd y system yn haws i'w deall.'

Yr oedd hyn ymhell o fod yn wir. Bellach, mae'r Gweinidog presennol dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol, a oedd yn fwy na pharod i bleidleisio dros gyflwyno 22 bwrdd iechyd lleol ar y pryd, wedi gorfod cyfaddef bod y system yn rhy fiwrocraidd, nad oes atebolrwydd clir, ac nad oes neb yn deall sut y mae'r system yn gweithio, yn enwedig y cleifion. Defnyddiwyd y sail resymegol y tu ôl i'r penderfyniad i sefydlu'r 22 bwrdd iechyd lleol i ddangos bod y 22 bwrdd iechyd lleol hynny'n gamgymeriad mawr, a'u bod, yn y bôn, yn gamgymeriad.

Dywedodd y Gweinidog dros iechyd ar y pryd—a chofiaf y dadleuon yn y Cyfarfodydd Llawn yn 2003—y byddai'r system newydd yn decach, yn

'seiliedig ar bartneriaeth ac wedi'i hategu gan y pwys a roddir ar ansawdd, cydraddoldeb ac effeithiolrwydd'.

Dywedodd hefyd y byddai'n cydffinio â llywodraeth leol.

Dyna oedd y sail resymegol dros y newid bum mlynedd yn ôl. Fodd bynnag, y profion hyn yn awr yw'r gwir resymau pam y mae'r Llywodraeth wedi gorfod cyfaddef na all 22 bwrdd iechyd lleol wneud y gwaith. Dylai'r Llywodraeth fod yn ddigon aeddfed a chyfrifol i dderbyn nad yw'r hyn a wnaethpwyd yr holl flynyddoedd hynny yn ôl wedi gweithio. Nid yw'r 22 BIL wedi cynhyrchu system sy'n dangos darpariaeth o safon uchel. Ni welwyd cydraddoldeb, ac yn sicr ni welwyd effeithiolrwydd.

That sort of meddling in the NHS, just for the sake of it, has been a hallmark of the Labour administration in Wales for the past decade. It seems obsessed with micromanaging, overcomplicating and constantly reviewing the service with little or no consultation with those professional people who have the experience of running the service. All the while, this constant meddling takes the focus away from the service and the patient, and ties doctors, nurses and managers up in organisational turmoil.

Although I extend a tentative welcome of the fact that the Minister has at last come around to the Welsh Conservatives' way of thinking, namely that establishing 22 local health boards was wrong and far fewer such bodies were needed, I must accept that, although she is being quite pragmatic, the party behind her simply is not. The party behind her has never been willing to trust doctors and nurses with taking key decisions about how the NHS works. I am afraid that it will have to realise that, while it may be a sparkingly talented group of individuals, those individuals were not born with some God-given right to tell a doctor how to do his job better. The party behind the Minister seems to think that it can run the NHS better than the doctors, nurses and managers who have been trained to deliver effective healthcare provision.

It might be unfair of me to blame the u-turn squarely on the Labour Party. As we remember, back in 2003, it was not alone in government. I would be interested to know what the Liberal Democrats think of this u-turn. Do they agree with it, or do they still believe that 22 local health boards represent a sustainable position for the NHS Wales?

Once upon a time, I remember colleagues in Plaid Cymru joining us in attacking this concept of 22 mini health bodies. Dr Dai Lloyd was highly eloquent at the time of the discussions of this matter. He said that having 22 local health boards would serve only to

Mae'r math hwnnw o ymyrryd â'r GIG, dim ond er mwyn ymyrryd, wedi bod yn nodweddiadol o'r weinyddiaeth Lafur yng Nghymru yn ystod y 10 mlynedd diwethaf. Ymddengys bod ganddi obsesiwn â microreoli, gorgymhlethu ac adolygu'r gwasanaeth o hyd ac o hyd heb ymgynghori fawr ddim, os o gwbl, â'r bobl broffesiynol hynny sydd â'r profiad o redeg y gwasanaeth. Gydol yr amser, mae'r ymyrryd parhaus hwn yn golygu bod llai o sylw'n cael ei roi i'r gwasanaeth ac i'r claf, a bod meddygon, nyrsys a rheolwyr o'r golwg mewn helbulon cyfundrefnol.

Er fy mod yn croesawu'n betrus y ffaith bod y Gweinidog wedi deall syniadau Ceidwadwyr Cymru o'r diwedd, hynny yw, mai camgymeriad oedd sefydlu 22 bwrdd iechyd lleol a bod angen llawer llai o gyrff o'r fath, rhaid imi dderbyn, er ei bod hi'n eithaf pragmatig, nad yw hynny'n wir am y blaid sydd y tu ôl iddi. Nid yw'r blaid sydd y tu ôl iddi erioed wedi bod yn barod i ymddiried mewn meddygon a nyrsys i wneud penderfyniadau pwysig ynglŷn â'r ffordd y mae'r GIG yn gweithio. Mae arnaf ofn y bydd yn rhaid iddi sylweddoli, er ei bod yn cynnwys grŵp talentog iawn o unigolion, na chafodd yr unigolion hynny eu geni â rhyw hawl gan Dduw i ddweud wrth feddyg sut i wneud ei waith yn well. Ymddengys bod y blaid sydd y tu ôl i'r Gweinidog yn credu y gall redeg y GIG yn well na'r meddygon, y nyrsys a'r rheolwyr sydd wedi cael eu hyfforddi i gyflenwi darpariaeth gofal iechyd effeithiol.

Efallai nad yw'n deg imi roi'r bai i gyd am y tro pedol hwn ar y Blaid Lafur. Fel y cofiwn, yn ôl yn 2003, nid oedd ar ei phen ei hun yn y llywodraeth. Byddwn yn hoffi gwybod beth y mae'r Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol yn ei feddwl o'r tro pedol hwn. A ydynt yn cytuno ag ef, ynteu a ydynt yn dal i gredu bod 22 bwrdd iechyd lleol yn sefyllfa gynaliadwy i GIG Cymru?

Cofiaf gyd-Aelodau ym Mhlaid Cymru'n ymuno â ni ar un adeg i ymosod ar y cysyniad hwn o 22 corff iechyd bach. Yr oedd Dr Dai Lloyd yn huawdl iawn ar adeg y trafodaethau ar y mater hwn. Dywedodd y byddai'r loteri cod post ar gyfer triniaeth yng

exacerbate the postcode lottery for treatment in Wales, whereas a single, national strategy would eliminate it at a stroke. I must say that I quite agree with him.

Dai Lloyd also said in Plenary in 2003 that Plaid was opposed to restructuring, and that Plaid Cymru would not restructure the health service. I welcome the fact that Plaid Cymru was so strong in its opposition to this five years ago, but it might be useful, though not essential, to know where its Members stand on this important matter today.

As a party, we look forward to responding to the consultation. We are not afraid of being radical if needs be. I look forward to the Health, Wellbeing and Local Government Committee reviewing the Minister's proposals, and recommending what it thinks is the right way forward to the Assembly as a body. The Government may not want the Assembly to discuss the mistakes that were made five to six years ago, but I think it important and healthy for democracy that that happens. The Government may not want or like the idea of Assembly committees discussing the way forward for the health service in Wales, and may prefer the Assembly to be seen merely as a consultee; however, I believe in devolution, and I believe that this body has the most important role of all to play. This body should spend time discussing what happened five or six years ago, why the Government decided on 22 local health boards, the mistake that was made, and the position that we now find ourselves in of having to correct that mistake.

2.00 p.m.

As a party, we have always believed that forming 22 local health boards was an error, and that the NHS should be streamlined. We have always accepted that some services could be restructured to make them more effective. However, we have always accepted, unlike the party opposite, that political interference needs to come out of the

Nghymru'n gwaethygu pe ceid 22 bwrdd iechyd lleol, ac y byddai un strategaeth genedlaethol yn cael gwared arno ar unwaith. Rhaid imi ddweud fy mod yn cytuno'n llwyr ag ef.

Dywedodd Dai Lloyd hefyd mewn Cyfarfod Llawn yn 2003 fod Plaid yn gwrthwynebu ailstrwythuro, ac na fyddai Plaid Cymru'n ailstrwythuro'r gwasanaeth iechyd. Yr wyf yn croesawu'r ffaith bod Plaid Cymru wedi gwrthwynebu hyn mor gryf bum mlynedd yn ôl, ond efallai y byddai'n fuddiol, er nad yn hanfodol, inni wybod beth yw safbwynt ei Haelodau ar y mater pwysig hwn heddiw.

Fel plaid, yr ydym yn edrych ymlaen i ymateb i'r ymgynghoriad. Nid oes arnom ofn bod yn radical os oes angen. Edrychaf ymlaen i weld y Pwyllgor Iechyd, Lles a Llywodraeth Leol yn adolygu cynigion y Gweinidog, ac yn argymhell beth yw'r ffordd briodol o symud ymlaen i'r Cynulliad fel corff. Efallai nad yw'r Llywodraeth yn awyddus i weld y Cynulliad yn trafod y camgymeriadau a wnaethpwyd bum neu chwe blynedd yn ôl, ond credaf ei bod yn bwysig ac yn iach o safbwynt democratiaeth bod hynny'n digwydd. Efallai nad yw'r Llywodraeth yn awyddus i weld pwyllgorau'r Cynulliad yn trafod y ffordd ymlaen i'r gwasanaeth iechyd yng Nghymru, neu efallai nad yw'n hoffi'r syniad, ac efallai y byddai'n well ganddi petai'r Cynulliad yn cael ei weld fel ymgynghorai yn unig; fodd bynnag, credaf mewn datganoli, a chredaf fod gan y corff hwn y rôl bwysicaf oll i'w chwarae. Dylai'r corff hwn dreulio amser yn trafod yr hyn a ddigwyddodd bum neu chwe blynedd yn ôl, pam y penderfynodd y Llywodraeth gael 22 bwrdd iechyd lleol, y camgymeriad a wnaethpwyd, a'r sefyllfa yr ydym ynddi ar hyn o bryd lle'r ydym yn gorfod cywiro'r camgymeriad hwnnw.

Fel plaid, yr ydym wedi credu erioed mai camgymeriad oedd ffurfio 22 bwrdd iechyd lleol, ac y dylid symleiddio'r GIG. Yr ydym wedi derbyn bob amser y gellid ailstrwythuro rhai gwasanaethau er mwyn eu gwneud yn fwy effeithiol. Fodd bynnag, yr ydym wedi derbyn erioed, yn wahanol i'r blaid gyferbyn, fod angen rhoi'r gorau i ymyrryd yn

day-to-day managing of the NHS; perhaps we as a party stand alone on that point. However, ultimately, the people of Wales now realise that the Labour Party is incapable of offering strategic thinking for our national health service. How can you trust the party to restructure the health service in the way that it did five or six years ago, and now completely change its mind, because it has had to admit that it was wrong?

This institution is less than 10 years old, yet we are now witnessing the second major restructuring of the health service within six years. It looks incompetent and clumsy, and it shows that your party, Minister, is merely reacting to events, as opposed to being proactive. It is high time that you accepted that you were wrong and apologised to the people of Wales for your costly mistake.

Jenny Randerson: I propose the following amendments in the name of Kirsty Williams. Amendment 1: add a new point at the end of the motion:

believes that the strength of the current system is that the boundaries of LHBs and social services departments are coterminous which facilitates co-operation to prevent delayed transfers of care.

Amendment 2: add a new point at the end of the motion:

believes that any alternative to the current arrangement must maintain strong links with local authorities.

Amendment 3: add a new point at the end of the motion:

believes that in the current proposals for reorganisation, any Health Board for Wales would result in considerable centralisation and concentration of power in the hands of the Minister.

Amendment 4: add a new point at the end of the motion:

wleidyddol â'r gwaith o reoli'r GIG o ddydd i ddydd; efallai mai ni yw'r unig blaid sy'n arddel y safbwynt hwnnw. Fodd bynnag, wedi dweud hynny, mae pobl Cymru'n sylweddoli bellach nad yw'r Blaid Lafur yn gallu cynnig syniadau strategol ar gyfer ein gwasanaeth iechyd gwladol. Sut y gallwch ymddiried yn y blaid a ad-drefnodd y gwasanaeth iechyd fel y gwnaeth bum neu chwe blynedd yn ôl, ac sydd bellach wedi newid ei meddwl yn llwyr, am ei bod wedi gorfod cyfaddef ei bod yn anghywir?

Mae'r sefydliad hwn yn llai na 10 mlwydd oed, ac eto yr ydym yn awr yn gweld yr ail ad-drefnu mawr yn y gwasanaeth iechyd o fewn chwe blynedd. Mae'n ymddangos yn ddi-glem ac yn fwngleraid, yn dangos mai'r cwbl y mae eich plaid yn ei wneud, Weinidog, yw ymateb i ddigwyddiadau, yn hytrach na bod yn rhagweithiol. Mae'n hen bryd ichi dderbyn eich bod yn anghywir ac ymddiheuro i bobl Cymru am eich camgymeriad drud.

Jenny Randerson: Cynigiau y gwelliannau canlynol yn enw Kirsty Williams. Gwelliant 1: ychwanegu pwynt newydd ar ddiwedd y cynnig:

yn credu mai cryfder y system gyfredol yw bod byrddau iechyd lleol yn rhannu'r un ffiniau ag adrannau gwasanaethau cymdeithasol, sy'n hwyluso cydweithrediad ac yn atal oedi wrth drosglwyddo gofal.

Gwelliant 2: ychwanegu pwynt newydd ar ddiwedd y cynnig.

yn credu bod yn rhaid i unrhyw beth a fydd yn disodli'r trefniant cyfredol gynnal cysylltiadau cryf gydag awdurdodau lleol.

Gwelliant 3: ychwanegu pwynt newydd ar ddiwedd y cynnig.

yn credu, gyda'r cynigion cyfredol ar gyfer ad-drefnu, y byddai unrhyw fwrdd iechyd ar gyfer Cymru yn arwain at ganoli sylweddol a chanolbwyntio pŵer yn nwylo'r Gweinidog.

Gwelliant 4: ychwanegu pwynt newydd ar ddiwedd y cynnig.

believes that in the current proposals for reorganisation, any health board for Wales should be established at arms length from the Welsh Assembly Government.

Amendment 5: add a new point at the end of the motion:

believes that any replacement structure must include a strong voice for patients and clinicians.

Amendment 6: add a new point at the end of the motion:

recognises that all reorganisations are followed by a period of significant financial cost and upheaval.

From the outset, I wish to make it clear that we will not be supporting this motion. It is negative and simplistic, and typical of the rather brutal Tory approach to politics. However, we have used this opportunity, by tabling several amendments, to tease out some things that concern us greatly about the Minister's proposals. In the Health, Wellbeing and Local Government Committee this morning she assured us that she has an open mind on a number of issues. This is a good opportunity to move what could be a negative, backward-looking debate to one that looks forward, and, I hope, productively at the future.

We agree that certain aspects of the local health board arrangements have not worked as successfully as it was hoped that they would. However, one must be clear that, at the time, the introduction of LHBs was seen as a way to enable the local voice to be heard. There was a great advantage—and it remains an advantage—in having boundaries coterminous with those of local authorities, which should have enabled local authorities and LHBs to work together to deal with bedblocking and delayed transfers of care. Had they been given the right steer, we would be much further on with the introduction of pooled budgets, which would have dealt with several of the issues that are of concern in relation to LHBs. We accept that expertise has been overstretched in some areas, and that there are many ways in which LHBs needed to work together, but they have

yn credu, gyda'r cynigion cyfredol ar gyfer ad-drefnu, y dylid sefydlu unrhyw Fwrdd Iechyd ar gyfer Cymru hyd braich o Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru.

Gwelliant 5: ychwanegu pwynt newydd ar ddiwedd y cynnig.

yn credu bod yn rhaid i unrhyw strwythur a ddaw yn ei le gynnwys llais cryf ar gyfer cleifion a chlinigwyr.

Gwelliant 6: ychwanegu pwynt newydd ar ddiwedd y cynnig.

yn cydnabod bod cyfnod o gostau ariannol sylweddol a newid mawr yn dilyn pob ad-drefnu.

Dymunaf wneud yn glir ar y cychwyn na fyddwn yn cefnogi'r cynnig hwn. Mae'n negyddol ac yn or-syml, ac yn nodweddiadol o'r agwedd ddiostur braidd sydd gan y Toriaid at wleidyddiaeth. Fodd bynnag, yr ydym wedi dal ar y cyfle hwn, drwy gyflwyno nifer o welliannau, i dynnu sylw at rai pethau sy'n achosi pryder mawr i ni ynghylch cynigion y Gweinidog. Yn y Pwyllgor Iechyd, Lles a Llywodraeth Leol y bore yma, fe'n sicrhodd fod ei meddwl yn agored ar nifer o faterion. Mae hyn yn gyfle da i droi'r hyn a allai fod yn ddadl negyddol a difenter yn un sy'n edrych ymlaen, a hynny'n gynhyrchiol, gobeithio, at y dyfodol.

Yr ydym yn derbyn bod rhai agweddau ar drefniadau'r byrddau iechyd lleol nad ydynt wedi gweithio mor llwyddiannus ag y gobeithiwyd. Er hynny, rhaid deall bod cyflwyno BILlau yn cael ei ystyried ar y pryd yn fodd i glywed lleisiau lleol. Yr oedd mantais fawr—ac mae'n fantais o hyd—o gael ffiniau a oedd yn cyd-fynd â therfynau awdurdodau lleol, a dylai hynny fod wedi galluogi awdurdodau lleol a BILlau i gydweithio i ddelio â blocio gwelyau ac oedi wrth drosglwyddo gofal. Petaent wedi'u llywio'n gywir, byddem wedi mynd lawer ymhellach gyda chyflwyno cyllidebau cyfun, a fyddai wedi delio â nifer o'r materion sy'n achosi pryder mewn cysylltiad â BILlau. Yr ydym yn derbyn bod arbenigedd wedi'i orymestyn mewn rhai ardaloedd, a bod angen i BILlau gydweithio mewn llawer modd, ond maent wedi methu â bwrw ymlaen yn gyflym

failed to run very fast with the baton when it was handed to them.

The Minister has put her plans out for consultation. I believe that they have the potential to place too much power in the hands of the Minister. The proposed NHS board has to be at arm's length from the Minister, and away from day-to-day political interference. That is not specified in the papers that have gone out, and I think that there is a key issue that needs to be discussed and worked through there. Centralisation is not the answer to all ills, and bigger is not necessarily better. If you get bigger, you simply carry on making mistakes—your mistakes just happen to be bigger ones. We need to bear in mind the debate that we had at the time that LHBs were introduced, and the reasons why we got rid of the old health authorities, which people complained were distant from them.

Small is not necessarily inefficient and expensive. Why did our LHBs not work? They are bigger than the equivalent authorities in Denmark, which work superbly efficiently, and produce one of the best health services in the world. The question is what these LHBs will do in the future.

I very much welcome the Minister's move to hand them community care. Too often, this has been relegated to the second division by trusts, and it needs to go in with primary care. I am very pleased about that. However, the Welsh Liberal Democrats believe that we need to look at the membership of those local health boards if they are to be responsive to local needs. We believe that there needs to be strong representation for local authorities, a strong democratic voice, a strong voice for patients, and a strong voice for clinicians. I shall be looking closely at the make-up of these new local health boards and, indeed, at what the Minister does with community health councils because, logically, those have to be next. They must have a local base and local knowledge.

Finally, it is important that we bear in mind, as we talk about this today, that patients do not know, understand, or care about structures; they care about having services that are prompt and efficient, and the very

pan drosglwyddwyd y cyfrifoldeb iddynt.

Mae'r Gweinidog wedi dosbarthu ei chynlluniau ar gyfer ymgynghori. Credaf ei bod yn bosibl iddynt roi gormod o rym yn nwylo'r Gweinidog. Rhaid i'r bwrdd GIG arfaethedig fod hyd braich oddi wrth y Gweinidog a chael ei gadw draw oddi wrth ymyrraeth wleidyddol o ddydd i ddydd. Nid yw hynny wedi'i nodi yn y papurau sydd wedi'u dosbarthu, a chredaf fod hwnnw'n fater allweddol y mae angen ei drafod a'i ddatrys. Nid canoli yw'r ateb i bob diffyg, ac nid yw mwy yn gyfystyr â gwell o reidrwydd. Os ewch yn fwy, byddwch yn dal i wneud camgymeriadau—ond bod y camgymeriadau hynny'n digwydd bod yn fwy. Mae angen inni gofio'r ddadl a gawsom adeg cyflwyno BILlau, a'n rhesymau dros gael gwared ar yr hen awdurdodau iechyd yr oedd pobl yn cwyno eu bod ymhell oddi wrthynt.

Nid yw bach o reidrwydd yn gyfystyr â drud ac aneffeithlon. Pam nad oedd ein BILlau yn gweithio? Maent yn fwy na'r awdurdodau cyfatebol yn Nenmarc, sy'n effeithlon dros ben, ac yn cynhyrchu un o'r gwasanaethau iechyd gorau yn y byd. Y cwestiwn yw beth a wnaiff y BILlau hyn yn y dyfodol.

Croesawaf yn fawr y camau gan y Gweinidog i drosglwyddo gofal cymunedol iddynt. Yn rhy aml, mae hyn wedi bod yn eilbeth i ymddiriedolaethau, ac mae angen ei gynnwys gyda gofal sylfaenol. Yr wyf yn fodlon iawn ar hynny. Fodd bynnag, mae Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru yn credu bod angen inni ystyried aelodaeth y byrddau iechyd lleol hynny os ydynt i allu ymateb i anghenion lleol. Credwn fod angen cynrychiolaeth gref i awdurdodau lleol, llais democratiaidd cryf, llais cryf dros gleifion, a llais cryf dros glinigwyr. Byddaf yn edrych yn fanwl ar gynnwys y byrddau iechyd lleol newydd hyn ac, yn wir, ar yr hyn a wnaiff y Gweinidog â chynghorau iechyd cymuned, oherwydd yn rhesymegol rhaid trafod y rheini nesaf. Rhaid iddynt gael sylfaen leol a gwybodaeth leol.

Yn olaf, mae'n bwysig inni gofio, wrth inni siarad am hyn heddiw, nad yw cleifion yn adnabod, yn deall nac yn poeni am strwythurau; maent yn poeni ynghylch cael gwasanaethau sy'n brydlon ac yn effeithlon,

best treatment. Therefore, Minister, unlike the Tories, I warn you that I am not interested in structures above all; I am interested in the services for patients. Rearranging deckchairs on the NHS Titanic must not be allowed to distract you or NHS staff from service delivery.

Nick Ramsay: We are debating this issue today because the establishment of the 22 local health boards was, unquestionably, a regressive step for the provision of healthcare in Wales. Given that the Welsh Assembly Government now recognises that and has proposed reducing the number of local health boards to eight, I look forward to Labour and Plaid Cymru giving this motion the support that I believe it deserves. I am proud to say that we, on this side of the Chamber, opposed the establishment of the 22 health boards from the outset. Since they were created, my colleague, Jonathan Morgan, has consistently outlined many of the reasons why the restructuring process was flawed. We are in this position because of that flawed process.

It is unfair of Jenny Randerson to say that this motion is negative and simplistic. We are trying to get an acknowledgement from the Government that this process was wrong from the outset, and thereby avoid the mistake being made again. The history of local government and public service delivery in Wales and the UK has been one of constant restructuring and reorganisation. This is perhaps the sixth or seventh restructuring process in recent years; we certainly do not want to be going through this process again in five or six years' time. We owe it to our colleagues in local government and in the health service to see that we get it right this time and that they are not subject to politicians' whims. If devolution is to work, it is a two-way process. We have to listen to concerns, and we have to respond and put in place a system that will work.

The British Dental Association expressed serious reservations about local health boards, as it believed that they would lack expertise in dental practice. It was obvious from the moment that the boards were

a'r driniaeth orau un. Felly, Weinidog, yn wahanol i'r Toriaid, fe'ch rhybuddiaf nad oes gennyf ddi-ddordeb mewn strwythurau uwchlaw pob dim; yn y gwasanaethau i gleifion y mae fy niddordeb. Rhaid peidio â gadael i ofal am fanion dynnu'ch sylw chi neu staff y GIG oddi wrth y gwaith o ddarparu gwasanaethau.

Nick Ramsay: Yr ydym yn cael dadl ar y mater hwn heddiw am ei bod yn sicr bod sefydlu'r 22 o fyrddau iechyd lleol yn gam yn ôl o ran darparu gofal iechyd yng Nghymru. O wybod bod Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru bellach yn derbyn hynny a'i bod wedi cynnig gostwng nifer y byrddau iechyd lleol i wyth, edrychaf ymlaen at weld Llafur a Phlaid Cymru yn rhoi i'r cynnig hwn y gefnogaeth y mae'n ei haeddu, yn fy marn i. Yr wyf yn falch dweud ein bod ni, ar yr ochr hon i'r Siambr, wedi gwrthwynebu sefydlu'r 22 bwrdd iechyd o'r cychwyn. Ers eu creu mae fy nghyd-Aelod, Jonathan Morgan, wedi amlinellu'n gyson lawer o'r rhesymau dros ddiffygion y broses ad-drefnu. Yr ydym yn y sefyllfa hon oherwydd y broses ddiffygiol honno.

Annheg ar ran Jenny Randerson yw dweud bod y cynnig hwn yn negyddol ac yn or-sym. Yr ydym yn ceisio cael y Llywodraeth i gydnabod bod y broses hon yn anghywir o'r cychwyn, a thrwy hynny osgoi gwneud yr un camgymeriad eto. Ailstrwythuro ac ad-drefnu cyson fu hanes llywodraeth leol a darparu gwasanaethau cyhoeddus yng Nghymru a'r DU. Mae'n bosibl mai hon yw'r chweched neu'r seithfed broses ad-drefnu yn y blynyddoedd diwethaf; yn sicr, nid ydym am fynd drwy'r broses hon eto ymhen pum neu chwe blynedd. Er mwyn ein cymheiriaid mewn llywodraeth leol ac yn y gwasanaeth iechyd, dylem sicrhau ein bod yn gwneud hyn yn iawn y tro hwn ac na fyddant yn dioddef oherwydd mympwyon gwleidyddion. Os yw datganoli i lwyddo, rhaid cael proses ddwyffordd. Rhaid inni wrando ar bryderon, a rhaid inni ymateb a rhoi system ar waith a fydd yn gweithio.

Mynegodd Cymdeithas Ddeintyddol Prydain amheuan dybryd ynghylch byrddau iechyd lleol, oherwydd credai na fyddai ganddynt arbenigedd mewn ymarfer deintyddol. Yr oedd yn amlwg o adeg sefydlu'r byrddau y

established that they would be ill-equipped to replace the previous health authorities. Some local health boards, admittedly—Monmouthshire is one, among others—have performed exceptionally well. However, that does negate the fact that the structure overall was incorrect.

One of my concerns about the creation of the health boards was that it would further add to the already unacceptably high level of bureaucracy in the Welsh healthcare system. I have already said that we are facing a major organisational reform. It is worth repeating that, as it is vital that we get it right this time. Professor Kevin Morgan, of Cardiff University, has said that:

‘The underlying cause of the National Health Service’s problems is capacity, or rather the lack of it. This means beds, nurses and doctors. At a time when capacity is the number one issue in the Welsh health service, one wonders what would be achieved by the creation of 22 new local health boards.’

Those comments are just as valid now as they were then. Let us listen to people like him. Let us listen to our councillors who sit on the local health boards, and let us listen to people across Wales and really get it right this time.

2.10 p.m.

It was interesting that the announcement on local health boards, by the previous Minister for health, Jane Hutt, was made on 1 April 2003—April Fool’s Day. Looking at it, in retrospect, it clearly was the wrong decision. If we look at the current situation, the recent statement was released during the Easter recess—talk about a good time for burying bad news. We associate that with the Government in Westminster, and with this Government now. That was not open and transparent. I accept that the Minister aspires to have an open and transparent system, but let us be truly open and transparent, and let us engage people. I do not have confidence in this process at the moment, given that this decision was announced in recess when we were not here to comment on the matter or to

byddent yn anghymwys i gymryd lle’r awdurdodau iechyd blaenorol. Rhaid cyfaddef bod rhai byrddau iechyd lleol—mae bwrdd sir Fynwy yn un ohonynt—wedi perfformio’n eithriadol o dda. Fodd bynnag, nid yw hynny’n gwrthbrofi bod y strwythur cyffredinol yn anghywir.

Un o’m pryderon ynghylch creu’r byrddau iechyd oedd y byddai hynny’n ychwanegu eto at lefel y fiwrocratiaeth yn system gofal iechyd Cymru, sydd eisoes yn annerbyniol o uchel. Yr wyf wedi dweud eisoes ein bod yn wynebu diwygio sefydliadol mawr. Mae’n werth ailadrodd hynny, oherwydd mae’n hollbwysig inni wneud hyn yn iawn y tro hwn. Mae’r Athro Kevin Morgan, o Brifysgol Caerdydd, wedi dweud mai:

Achos sylfaenol problemau’r Gwasanaeth Iechyd Gwladol yw capasiti, neu’n hytrach ddiffyg capasiti. Mae hyn yn golygu gwelyau, nyrsys a meddygon. Ar adeg pan fydd capasiti’n brif ystyriaeth yng ngwasanaeth iechyd Cymru, mae rhywun yn meddwl tybed beth fyddai’n cael ei gyflawni drwy greu 22 o fyrddau iechyd lleol newydd. Mae’r sylwadau hynny mor ddilys yn awr ag yr oeddent bryd hynny. Gadewch inni wrando ar rai fel yr Athro Kevin Morgan. Gadewch inni wrando ar ein cynghorwyr sy’n eistedd ar y byrddau iechyd lleol, a gadewch inni wrando ar bobl ledled Cymru a gwneud hyn yn iawn y tro hwn.

Yr oedd yn ddiddorol fod y cyhoeddiad am fyrddau iechyd lleol, gan y Jane Hutt, y Gweinidog blaenorol dros iechyd, wedi’i wneud ar 1 Ebrill 2003—Diwrnod Ffŵl Ebrill. Wrth edrych yn ôl, mae’n amlwg fod y penderfyniad yn anghywir. Os edrychwn ar y sefyllfa bresennol, cyhoeddwyd y datganiad diweddar yn ystod toriad y Pasg—dyna ichi amser da i gladdu newyddion drwg. Yr ydym yn cysylltu hynny â’r Llywodraeth yn San Steffan, a’r Llywodraeth hon yn awr. Nid oedd gwneud hynny yn agored ac yn eglur. Yr wyf yn derbyn mai uchelgais y Gweinidog yw cael system agored ac eglur, ond gadewch inni fod yn wirioneddol agored ac eglur, a gadewch inni gynnwys pobl. Nid oes gennyf ffydd yn y broses hon ar hyn o bryd, o gofio bod y penderfyniad hwn wedi’i gyhoeddi yn

oppose this.

Jenny Randerson called this a negative and simplistic debate. We have opposed this system from the start, but it has not been all bad. You mentioned that there was a local democratic element, Jenny. Coterminosity certainly meant that local councillors felt that they were playing a part in the system. It is important that we do not lose that and do not throw the baby out with the bathwater. It is important that the new bodies, when are set up, have strong links with local authorities and I look forward to hearing what measures the Minister will propose to ensure that those links are carried forward.

I think that a catastrophic mistake was made in 2003, and I am delighted that the Minister for health has woken up to the mistakes of her predecessors. Our calls to simplify the NHS structure in Wales are well worth supporting and I urge all my colleagues here and other AMs to support them.

Val Lloyd: As we have seen, the reorganisation of health services is always an emotive subject. However, I am disappointed that the motion before us today does not seek to deal with any of the recent proposals put forward by the Minister for health, but, rather bizarrely, focuses on the last NHS reorganisation.

We have a clear choice: we can either concentrate on how we can improve services for patients or on criticising any past efforts to reorganise health services. As far as I am concerned, there is no contest. I supported the last NHS reorganisation, which saw the creation of 22 local health boards. I made clear at the time that I felt that they were the best vehicle to deliver much-needed structural change because they were rooted in the community and were thus well suited to respond to the particular health needs of each community, and I did check my previous speech before I wrote this one.

As a former nurse, who has worked within the primary, secondary and tertiary spheres, I

ystod y toriad pan nad oeddem yma i roi sylwadau am y mater neu ei wrthwynebu.

Dywedodd Jenny Randerson fod y ddadl hon yn negyddol ac yn or-syml. Yr ydym wedi gwrthwynebu'r system hon o'r dechrau, ond ni fu'n ddrwg i gyd. Sonich fod yna elfen ddemocrataidd leol, Jenny. Yn sicr, yr oedd y cydffinio'n golygu bod cynghorwyr lleol yn teimlo bod ganddynt ran yn y system. Mae'n bwysig inn i beidio â cholli hynny a pheidio â thafu'r llo a chadw'r brych. Mae'n bwysig i'r cyrff newydd gael cysylltiadau cryf, ar ôl eu sefydlu, ag awdurdodau lleol ac edrychaf ymlaen at glywed pa fesurau y bydd y Gweinidog yn eu cynnig i sicrhau y bydd y cysylltiadau hynny'n parhau.

Credaf fod camgymeriad trychinebus wedi'i wneud yn 2003, ac yr wyf wrth fy modd fod y Gweinidog dros iechyd wedi agor ei llygaid i gamgymeriadau ei rhagflaenwyr. Mae ein galwadau am symleiddio strwythur y GIG yng Nghymru yn wirioneddol werth eu cefnogi, ac anogaf bob un o'm cyd-Aelodau yma ac ACau eraill i'w cefnogi.

Val Lloyd: Fel y gwelsom, mae ad-drefnu gwasanaethau iechyd yn bwnc emosiynol bob amser. Er hynny, yr wyf yn siomedig nad yw'r cynnig sydd ger ein bron heddiw yn ceisio delio ag unrhyw un o'r cynigion diweddar a gyflwynwyd gan y Gweinidog dros iechyd, a'i fod, yn ddigon rhyfedd, yn canolbwyntio ar yr ad-drefnu diwethaf yn y GIG.

Mae gennym ddewis clir: gallwn ganolbwyntio un ai ar y modd y gallwn wella gwasanaethau i gleifion ynteu feirniadu unrhyw ymdrechion yn y gorffennol i ad-drefnu gwasanaethau iechyd. O'm rhan i, mae'r dewis iawn yn amlwg. Cefnogais yr ad-drefnu diwethaf yn y GIG pan grëwyd 22 o fyrddau iechyd lleol. Eglurais ar y pryd fy mod yn teimlo mai dyna oedd y cyfrwng gorau i sicrhau'r newid strwythur yr oedd taer angen amdano, am eu bod wedi'u gwreiddio yn y gymuned ac yn addas felly i ymateb i anghenion iechyd penodol pob cymuned, ac edrychais ar fy araith flaenorol cyn imi ysgrifennu hon.

Fel cyn-nyrs, sydd wedi gweithio ym meysydd gofal sylfaenol, eilaidd a

also welcomed the fact that the LHBs' membership was inter-professional and allowed for contributions from local authorities, the voluntary sector and the public.

Nick Bourne: Given that you have referred to your earlier speech and stated honestly that you endorsed the changes then, could you explain—and perhaps you intend to go on to do so—how you see the new changes as being consistent? We had coterminosity between 22 local health boards and the local authorities. What is now being proposed is very different. We will have eight boards, which will not be coterminous. What was great about the old proposals and what is currently in place was that coterminosity, and the new proposals are very different, as I am sure you will agree.

Val Lloyd: Yes. I have acknowledged that, Nick, and I agree with what you have said. However, that was the position in 2001. That was when local health boards were first proposed. I checked, and I made my original comments on 27 November.

However, as I was about to say, times change and society changes, as do health needs to some extent, as I am sure you would agree. I recognise, in the light of that, that the current system is experiencing problems. That said, some constituent health organisations are working better than others, and that is an important strand. However, I stand by the comments I made in 2001. It is important that we continue to monitor how the NHS works in Wales, and respond to the need for reform whenever it arises.

Turning to the proposals put forward by the Minister for health, I welcome the strengthening of LHBs' responsibilities for the development of core community services, such as district nurses, health visitors and so on, and particularly community hospitals. LHBs that are fewer in number and larger, while retaining a firm community basis, will be able to concentrate on developing essential out-of-hospital care for patients.

thrydyddol, croesewais hefyd y ffaith fod aelodaeth i BILl yn dod o'r holl broffesiynau ac yn caniatáu cyfraniadau gan awdurdodau lleol, y sector gwirfoddol a'r cyhoedd.

Nick Bourne: Gan eich bod wedi cyfeirio at eich araith flaenorol ac wedi dweud yn onest eich bod wedi cymeradwyo'r newidiadau bryd hynny, a allech egluro—ac efallai eich bod yn bwriadu mynd ymlaen i wneud hynny—sut y gwelwch fod y newidiadau newydd yn gyson? Yr un ffiniau oedd i'r 22 bwrdd iechyd lleol a'r awdurdodau lleol. Mae'r hyn a gynigir yn awr yn dra gwahanol. Bydd gennym wyth bwrdd na fyddant yn cydffinio. Y peth gwych ynglŷn â'r hen gynigion a'r hyn sydd ar waith yn awr oedd y cydffinio hwnnw, ac mae'r cynigion newydd yn dra gwahanol, fel yr ydych yn cytuno, mae'n siŵr.

Val Lloyd: Ydwyf. Yr wyf wedi cydnabod hynny, Nick, ac yr wyf yn cyd-fynd â'r hyn yr ydych wedi'i ddweud. Fodd bynnag, dyna oedd y sefyllfa yn 2001. Dyna pryd y cynigiwyd byrddau iechyd lleol yn gyntaf. Gwiriais hynny, a gwneuthum fy sylwadau gwreiddiol ar 27 Tachwedd.

Fodd bynnag, fel yr oeddwn ar fin dweud, mae'r oes yn newid a chymdeithas yn newid, fel y mae anghenion iechyd i ryw raddau, fel y cytunech, yr wyf yn siŵr. Yr wyf yn derbyn, o ystyried hynny, fod y system bresennol yn cael problemau. Wedi dweud hynny, mae rhai cyrff iechyd cyfansoddol yn gweithio'n well na'i gilydd, ac mae hynny'n ystyriaeth bwysig. Fodd bynnag, yr wyf yn cadw at y sylwadau a wneuthum yn 2001. Mae'n bwysig inni ddal i fonitro sut y mae'r GIG yn gweithio yng Nghymru, ac ymateb i'r angen am ddiwygio pryd bynnag y bydd yn codi.

I droi at y cynigion a roddwyd gerbron gan y Gweinidog dros iechyd, croesawaf atgyfnerthu cyfrifoldebau BILlau dros ddatblygu gwasanaethau cymunedol craidd, fel nyrsys ardal, ymwelwyr iechyd, ac yn y blaen, ac yn enwedig ysbytai cymunedol. Bydd BILlau sy'n fwy o ran maint ac yn llai o ran nifer, ac yn cadw sylfaen gymunedol gadarn, yn gallu canolbwyntio ar ddatblygu gofal hanfodol i gleifion y tu allan i'r ysbyty.

I also welcome the fact that LHBs will continue to engage with local authorities and other partners at a local level. User engagement is essential, as is all these partners coming together to shape the future of NHS developments.

On the funding and commissioning of services, I firmly believe that we must ensure that all patients across Wales have equal access to treatment and services. In the proposals that are out for consultation, the LHBs retain a clear leadership role and responsibility for local needs assessments, but the funding for NHS trusts services will come directly, either from the Welsh Assembly Government or via a separate national board. This will ensure that, while different health needs are reflected, there is a fair allocation of resources that seeks to reduce health inequalities in Wales.

There is no point arguing about the previous health service reorganisation. LHBs have done some good work, and these proposals do not seek to do away with everything that they have achieved; they simply seek to ensure that there is better co-ordination between NHS services at a local and national level, with the ultimate aim of providing patients with the best quality of care.

David Melding: It is rare that one sees, in such an unambiguous way, a public policy completely collapse. It does not happen often. I remind Members that the local health boards—the successors to the five former health authorities—have not lasted as long as the average ministerial career of a Labour Member on the frontbench. It is astonishing that these structures have barely lasted five years. I think that that indicates a failure under anyone's definition.

It is time to move on, because what replaces them is not an academic decision; my party, alas, has no executive function at the moment, so we want to ensure that those who do have executive responsibility make as rational a decision as possible. However, we need to reflect on past performance. It is a

Yr wyf hefyd yn croesawu'r ffaith y bydd y BILLau yn dal i weithio gydag awdurdodau lleol a phartneriaid eraill ar lefel leol. Mae ymgysylltu â defnyddwyr yn hanfodol, a hefyd fod yr holl bartneriaid hyn yn dod ynghyd i lunio dyfodol datblygiadau yn y GIG.

O ran cyllido a chomisiynu gwasanaethau, credaf yn bendant ei bod yn rhaid inni sicrhau bod pob claf ledled Cymru yn gallu cael triniaeth a gwasanaethau yn gyfartal. Yn y cynigion sy'n destun ymgynghori, mae'r BILLau yn cadw rôl arweinyddiaeth glir a chyfrifoldeb dros asesiadau anghenion lleol. Ond bydd y cyllid ar gyfer gwasanaethau ymddiriedolaethau GIG yn dod yn uniongyrchol, un ai oddi wrth Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru neu drwy fwrdd cenedlaethol ar wahân. Bydd hyn yn sicrhau, tro bydd gwahanol anghenion iechyd yn cael eu hadlewyrchu, fod dyraniad teg o adnoddau sy'n ceisio lleihau anghydraddoldebau iechyd yng Nghymru.

Nid oes diben dadlau am yr ad-drefnu blaenorol yn y gwasanaeth iechyd. Mae'r BILLau wedi gwneud gwaith da, ac nid yw'r cynigion hyn yn ceisio gwneud i fwrdd â phopeth y maent wedi'i gyflawni; maent yn ceisio sicrhau bod gwell cyd-drefnu rhwng gwasanaethau GIG ar lefel leol a chenedlaethol, gyda'r nod yn y pen draw o ddarparu gofal o'r safon orau i gleifion.

David Melding: Anaml y bydd rhywun yn gweld, mewn ffordd mor ddiamwys, bolisi cyhoeddus yn methu'n llwyr. Nid yw'n digwydd yn aml. Atgoffaf yr Aelodau nad yw'r byrddau iechyd lleol—olynwyr y pum awdurdod iechyd blaenorol—wedi para mor hir â gyrfa weinidogol Aelod Llafur ar y fainc flaen ar gyfartaledd. Mae'n rhyfeddol nad yw'r strwythurau hyn wedi para prin bum mlynedd. Credaf fod hynny'n dangos methiant yn ôl diffiniad unrhyw un.

Mae'n bryd symud ymlaen, oherwydd nid penderfyniad academaidd yw'r hyn sydd i'w disodli; nid oes gan fy mhlaid i, yn anffodus, swyddogaeth weithredol ar hyn o bryd, ac felly, yr ydym am sicrhau bod y rheini sydd â swyddogaeth weithredol yn gwneud penderfyniad mor synhwyrol â phosibl. Fodd

symptom of the Labour Party in Government how often it changes structures. We have commented on another aspect of the current changes, namely to withdraw community health services from acute trusts and place them back in a community setting with the successors to the LHBs. That, as a policy, is sound, but I remind you that one of the first actions of the Labour Party in Government was to abolish the old community and mental health trusts and to transfer the community services to the acute trusts. Now it is going backwards on that, so there is form there.

Another change is going on. I suspect that not many Members realise that, in creating super NHS trusts, we are creating bodies of immense power. Wales will have three of the largest NHS trusts in the whole of the United Kingdom if the Minister's proposals go through. That may be the way to go, but you need to know the order of magnitude of what is happening and to reflect on the changes that are proposed, once the consultation is concluded, because some very powerful big structures are being created.

I think, in fairness, that the Minister is fairly courageous; I do not think that she has made this decision lightly, and she has avoided minimising it in the language that she has used. However, the First Minister's performance last week was nothing short of shocking when he said to my colleague, the leader of the opposition, that the LHBs are not being abolished but are being readjusted and that he did not know what all the fuss was about. If Rhodri were to play a role in a Gilbert and Sullivan opera, it should be the role of the lord high executioner in the *Mikado*, because the comedy of his performance would be reflected. As he leads a doomed member of the Japanese aristocracy to the scaffold, I can see him saying, 'Don't worry, boy; look on this less as your execution and more as an existential readjustment'. [*Laughter.*] It will not work as we know what is happening; these changes are absolutely massive.

The commissioning role of the LHBs was

bynag, mae angen inni ystyried perfformiad yn y gorffennol. Un o symptomau'r Blaid Lafur mewn Llywodraeth yw mor aml y mae'n newid strwythurau. Yr ydym wedi sôn am agwedd arall ar y newidiadau presennol, sef cymryd gwasanaethau iechyd cymunedol oddi ar ymddiriedolaethau aciwt a'u gosod yn ôl yn y gymuned gydag olynwyr y BILlau. Mae hynny, fel polisi, yn gadarn, ond atgoffaf chi mai un o weithredoedd cyntaf y Blaid Lafur mewn Llywodraeth oedd dileu'r hen ymddiriedolaethau cymuned ac iechyd meddwl, a throsglwyddo'r gwasanaethau cymunedol i'r ymddiriedolaethau aciwt. Yn awr, y mae'n mynd yn ôl ar hynny, felly, mae yma batrwm.

Mae newid arall yn digwydd. Yr wyf yn amau bod nifer o'r Aelodau heb sylweddoli ein bod, wrth greu uwch ymddiriedolaethau GIG, yn creu cyrff a fydd â grym enfawr. Bydd gan Gymru dair o'r ymddiriedolaethau GIG mwyaf yn y Deyrnas Unedig gyfan os caiff cynigion y Gweinidog eu cymeradwyo. Efallai mai dyna'r ffordd i fynd, ond mae angen ichi wybod mor fawr yw'r newidiadau a awgrymir, pan ddaw'r ymgynghori i ben, oherwydd mae rhai strwythurau mawr hynod o bwerus yn cael eu creu.

Credaf, a bod yn deg, fod y Gweinidog yn weddol ddewr; ni chredaf iddi wneud y penderfyniad hwn yn ysgafn, ac mae wedi osgoi gwneud yn ysgafn ohono yn yr iaith y mae wedi ei defnyddio. Fodd bynnag, nid oedd perfformiad y Prif Weinidog yr wythnos diwethaf yn ddim llai na gwarthus pan ddywedodd wrth fy nghyd-Aelod, arweinydd yr wrthblaid, nad yw'r BILlau yn cael eu dileu ond yn cael eu hailaddasu ac nad oedd yn deall beth oedd rheswm yr holl stŵr. Petai Rhodri i chwarae rhan mewn opera Gilbert a Sullivan, rhan yr arglwydd arch ddienyddiwr yn y *Mikado* fyddai'r briod rôl honno, oherwydd byddai comedi ei berfformiad yn cael ei adlewyrchu. Wrth iddo arwain aelod bonheddig o Siapan at y crocbren, gallaf ei weld yn dweud, 'Paid â phoeni, ngwas i; meddylia am hyn nid fel dy ddienyddio ond yn fwy fel ailaddasu dirfodol'. [*Chwerthin.*] Ni fydd yn tycio oherwydd gwyddom beth sy'n digwydd; mae'r newidiadau hyn yn wirioneddol enfawr

Nid oedd gobaith byth i rôl gomisiynu'r

never going to be effective; it was accidental in the first place. In 2001, when the old health authorities were abolished, the Government thought that it could absorb the commissioning function. That was unlawful, because the Assembly did not have the power to abolish health authorities. Therefore, the 22 LHB had to become, in effect, mini health authorities. That is where the error came about; it was not really designed.

2.20 p.m.

Perversely, the most useful thing in the former system was the coterminosity. That was created a few years before, in the local health groups that existed at that time. It makes some sense to focus social, community and primary care in the same geographical setting. However, now, in creating eight local, or not so local, regional health boards, we will lose whatever benefits there were in that system.

I conclude with a comment on how NHS hospital services will now be commissioned—this carries on a little from what Jenny Randerson said. This is an important decision. It will either be done by the Minister in the Welsh Assembly Government—that is the first model that we have to comment on—or at some NHS board. I advise the Minister not to accrue those powers herself, because that would make her responsible for all of the changes that need to happen in secondary services, and it will always be a political decision. I do not think that that is a wise policy. I would create an NHS board, at arm's length, and make it independent.

Michael German: I am struggling with this motion simply because I am listening to a debate on the direction in which the health service should be going, rather than on why it was wrong in the past. Saying what was wrong in the past would illustrate the direction in which we need to go. We have been clear—and I think that David was absolutely clear—that the commissioning of secondary services is the problem that needs to be addressed. Our problem with this

BILLau fod yn effeithiol; damweiniol ydoedd yn y lle cyntaf. Yn 2001, pan ddiddymwyd yr hen awdurdodau iechyd, credai'r Llywodraeth y gallai hi lyncu'r swyddogaeth gomisiynu. Yr oedd hynny'n anghyfreithlon, oherwydd nid oedd gan y Cynulliad y pŵer i ddiddymu awdurdodau iechyd. Felly, yr oedd yn rhaid i'r 22 BILL, i bob diben, ddod yn awdurdodau iechyd bach. Dyna sut y digwyddodd y camgymeriad; nid oedd wedi'i fwriadu mewn gwirionedd.

Yn rhyfedd ddigon, y peth mwyaf defnyddiol yn y system flaenorol oedd y rhannu ffiniau. Cafodd hynny ei greu rai blynyddoedd yn gynharach, yn y grwpiau iechyd lleol a oedd yn bodoli bryd hynny. Mae rhywfaint o synnwyr i ganolbwytio gofal cymdeithasol, cymunedol a sylfaenol o fewn yr un cwmpas daearyddol. Fodd bynnag, yn awr, wrth greu wyth bwrdd iechyd rhanbarthol lleol, ond nid mor lleol, byddwn yn colli pa fanteision bynnag a oedd yn y system honno.

Gorffennaf gyda sylw am y ffordd y caiff gwasanaethau ysbytai GIG eu comisiynu'n awr—mae hyn yn barhad i raddau o'r hyn a ddywedodd Jenny Randerson. Mae hwn yn benderfyniad pwysig. Bydd yn cael ei wneud un ai gan Weinidog yn Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru—dyna'r model cyntaf sydd gennym i gynnig sylwadau arno—ynteu mewn rhyw fwrdd GIG. Cynghoraf y Gweinidog i beidio â chymryd y pwerau hynny ei hun, oherwydd byddai hynny'n ei gwneud yn gyfrifol am yr holl newidiadau sy'n ofynnol yn y gwasanaethau eilaidd, a bydd bob amser yn benderfyniad gwleidyddol. Ni chredaf fod hynny'n bolisi doeth. Byddwn i'n creu bwrdd GIG, o hyd braich, a'i wneud yn annibynnol.

Michael German: Yr wyf yn cael anhawster gyda'r cynnig hwn am y rheswm syml fy mod yn gwrando ar ddadl am y cyfeiriad y dylai'r gwasanaeth iechyd fynd, yn hytrach na pham yr oedd yn anghywir yn y gorffennol. Byddai dweud beth oedd yn anghywir yn y gorffennol yn dangos i ba gyfeiriad y mae angen inni fynd. Yr ydym wedi bod yn glir—a chredaf fod David yn gwbl glir—mai comisiynu gwasanaethau eilaidd yw'r broblem y mae angen ymdrin â

motion is that it is a case of babies and bathwater; that expression has been used by the Conservatives. I have heard it said strongly that the new arrangements should include a strengthened relationship with local government. That is where we have difficulty with what is being proposed. We share those concerns, and I would have welcomed seeing them expressed in the motion.

There is no doubt that the strength of the present arrangement lies in the relationship between local health boards and local councils. Admittedly, it is not uniform, but would you expect uniformity, and do you demand uniformity, when the needs of various parts of Wales are so different? The needs of rural communities, urban communities, Valleys communities, and so on, are going to be different and will have different perspectives. It is quite right that local authorities should have a sense of being in the driving seat. That has been thrown into even sharper relief by the Grogan judgment, which says that if there is any healthcare to be provided, it should be provided wholly by the NHS. In these proposals—where community care will be moved in—that means the work of local health boards. So, there is a great need for some strengthening of that interface in order to make those decisions.

One discussion that we are hearing today is that of the Longley review on delayed transfers of care, and how there is often a sense of local government and the health service being played off against each other on those Grogan judgments. That tells me that there has to be a stronger relationship. Marcus Longley rightly says in his report that there has to be a strengthened local service board partnership, which includes local health boards. I do not quite understand the Conservatives' position, particularly about support for the coterminosity issue. Will we have sub-committees of these new regional health boards? That seems to be one thing that we are heading towards. That is a mistake in my view. We should secure a much strengthened relationship in terms of those services that are provided by the community, in the community, because that is what gives you that local determination.

hi. Ein problem ni gyda'r cynnig hwn yw mai achos o'r llo a'r brych ydyw; mae'r ymadrodd hwnnw wedi ei ddefnyddio gan y Ceidwadwyr. Fe'i clywais yn cael ei ddweud yn gryf y dylai'r trefniadau newydd gynnwys perthynas gryfach â llywodraeth leol. Yno y mae ein anhawster gyda'r hyn sy'n cael ei gynnig. Mae'r rheini'n bryderon i ni hefyd, a byddwn wedi croesawu gweld eu mynegi yn y cynnig.

Nid oes amheuaeth nad cryfder y trefniant presennol yw'r berthynas rhwng byrddau iechyd lleol a chynghorau lleol. Rhaid cyfaddef nad yw'n unffurf, ond a fydddech yn disgwyl unffurfiaeth, ac a ydych yn mynnu unffurfiaeth, gan fod anghenion gwahanol rannau o Gymru mor wahanol? Mae anghenion cymunedau gwledig, cymunedau trefol, cymunedau'r Cymoedd, ac yn y blaen, yn wahanol a bydd ganddynt bersbectif gwahanol. Mae'n hollol iawn y dylai awdurdodau lleol deimlo mai nhw sy'n gyrru pethau ymlaen. Daeth hynny'n amlycach fyth yn sgil dyfarniad Grogan, sy'n dweud, os oes unrhyw ofal iechyd i gael ei ddarparu, y dylai gael ei ddarparu'n gyfan gwbl gan y GIG. Yn y cynigion hyn—lle bydd gofal cymunedol yn cael ei symud i mewn—mae hynny'n golygu gwaith byrddau iechyd lleol. Felly, mae angen dybryd i gryfhau'r rhyngwyneb hwnnw i ryw raddau er mwyn gwneud y penderfyniadau hynny.

Un drafodaeth yr ydym yn ei chlywed heddiw yw honno ar adolygiad Longley o'r oedi wrth drosglwyddo gofal, a'r ymdeimlad sydd yna'n aml fod llywodraeth leol a'r gwasanaeth iechyd yn cael eu chwarae yn erbyn ei gilydd o ran y dyfarniadau Grogan hynny. Mae hynny'n dweud wrthyf ei bod yn rhaid cael perthynas gryfach. Dywed Marcus Longley yn hollol iawn yn ei adroddiad ef ei bod yn rhaid wrth bartneriaeth gryfach o fyrddau gwasanaethau lleol, sy'n cynnwys byrddau iechyd lleol. Nid wyf yn deall safbwynt y Ceidwadwyr yn iawn, yn enwedig o ran cefnogi mater cydffinio. A fydd gennym is-bwyllgorau o'r byrddau iechyd rhanbarthol newydd hyn? Mae hynny'n ymddangos yn un peth yr ydym yn anelu ato. Mae hynny'n gamgymeriad yn fy marn i. Dylem sicrhau perthynas lawer cryfach o ran y gwasanaethau hynny a gaiff eu darparu gan y gymuned, yn y gymuned, oherwydd dyna

sy'n rhoi penderfynu lleol ichi.

I will reflect for a moment on the Monmouthshire example, where there is perhaps one of the best relationships between a local health board and the council. There is joint decision making and joint appointments in Monmouthshire. If you are looking for the pooling of budgets, Monmouthshire is an example of where that has worked. It is no wonder that some of our Conservative colleagues—including our erstwhile colleague David Davies—have shown despair about the current scenario of babies being thrown out with the bathwater. It is the case that some parts of the system are working and the retention of those parts is what I do not see in the current proposals.

We have heard from Val about engagement with the local community and with the voices of patients and clinicians, and I agree with her that they are important measures that we do not wish to lose. We do not wish to lose that engagement with those local representatives. We need to put doctors, nurses, clinicians and surgeons back at the heart of the decision making and that is what you can do by keeping that coterminous relationship. There has to be a way of finding something to keep that going.

There is, of course, a difference in the position with secondary commissioning, and I understand that. What seems to be happening across Wales is that there are clearly some services that need to be commissioned at a greater than regional level. You cannot just draw boundaries around where those health services are provided any longer, because specialist care comes at a whole variety of levels. I would like to think that the Minister is open to conversion on this matter, because there are very powerful arguments for ensuring that that local relationship is put in place.

I will just reflect, finally, on that crucial point regarding who makes the decision. I almost shudder as I envisage Edwina sitting at her desk with three buttons—a green one, a red one and a white one, just like here—and, for every decision that comes through, she has to press a button to decide. I am sure that she

Yr wyf am ystyried esiampl sir Fynwy am funud, lle mae un o'r esiamplau gorau o berthynas efallai rhwng bwrdd iechyd lleol a'r cyngor. Bydd penderfynu ar y cyd ac apwyntiadau ar y cyd yn sir Fynwy. Os ydych yn ystyried cronni cyllidebau, mae sir Fynwy yn esiampl o ardal lle mae hynny wedi gweithio. Nid yw'n syndod fod rhai o'n cyd-Aelodau Ceidwadol—gan cynnwys David Davies, ein cyd-Aelod gynt—wedi anobeithio â'r sefyllfa bresennol o gadw'r brych a thaflu'r llo. Mae rhai rhannau o'r system yn gweithio, a chadw'r rhannau hynny yw'r hyn nad wyf yn ei weld yn y cynigion cyfredol.

Clywsom gan Val ynglŷn ag ymgysylltu â'r gymuned leol ac â lleisiau cleifion a chlinigwyr, a chytunaf â hi eu bod yn fesurau pwysig nad ydym am eu colli. Nid ydym am golli'r cysylltiad hwnnw â'r cynrychiolwyr lleol hynny. Mae angen inni roi meddygon, nyrsys, clinigwyr a llawfeddygon yn ôl wrth galon y drefn benderfynu, a gallwch wneud hynny drwy gadw'r berthynas honno o gydffinio. Rhaid bod ffordd o gael rhywbeth i gadw hynny i fynd.

Mae gwahaniaeth, wrth gwrs, yn y sefyllfa o ran comisiynu eilaidd, ac yr wyf yn deall hynny. Mae'n ymddangos mai'r hyn sy'n digwydd ar draws Cymru yw bod rhai gwasanaethau yn amlwg y mae angen eu comisiynu ar lefel ehangach na'r lefel ranbarthol. Ni allwch mwyach dynnu ffiniau'n syml o amgylch y manau lle mae'r gwasanaethau iechyd hynny'n cael eu darparu, oherwydd darperir gofal arbenigol ar amrywiaeth eang o lefelau. Byddwn yn hoffi meddwl ei bod yn bosibl perswadio'r Gweinidog ar y mater hwn, oherwydd mae yna ddadleuon grymus iawn dros sicrhau bod y berthynas leol honno'n cael ei sefydlu.

Yn olaf, nid wyf ond am ystyried y pwynt tyngedfennol hwnnw ynglŷn â phwy sy'n gwneud y penderfyniad. Yr wyf yn arswydo bron wrth ddychmygu Edwina yn eistedd wrth ei desg gyda thri botwm mawr—un gwyrdd, un coch ac un gwyn, yn union fel sydd yma—ac am bob penderfyniad a fydd

would love it, but I think that it would be entirely wrong for political power to be so involved in decision making.

Darren Millar: Diolch am y cyfle i siarad yn y ddadl hon heddiw, Ddirprwy Lywydd.

I welcome the current u-turn by the Labour-Plaid Government with regard to the abolition of the 22 LHBs. This puts us back on track towards what we, the Welsh Conservatives, and the people of Wales, would much prefer to see, namely a less bureaucratic Welsh health service, without a postcode lottery. What concerns me, however, is the way in which the Welsh Assembly Government appears content to simply keep fiddling around with the system, rather than demonstrating the capability to actually put something worthwhile in place for the long term, to future proof our health service.

While these proposals are welcome, they still do not go far enough in reducing the administrative burdens in the system. The Labour approach to policy, certainly NHS policy, reminds me of watching a toddler building a tower block out of Lego bricks, only to knock it down immediately when it gets to a certain height. These reforms will take us back almost five years to when we had health authorities in Wales. In fact, I cannot understand why these new local health boards are not being called health authorities. Let us remember what Jane Hutt told us just five years ago. She said that the new local health board system would

‘provide a sense of renewal and purpose for our national health service in Wales over the next ten years’.

Five years in and they are being scrapped. In an interview with the *Western Mail* in 2003, the First Minister announced that, as a result of the new structure, we were going to be unique in the United Kingdom. We are almost certainly unique, but for all the wrong reasons.

yn dod drwodd ei bod yn gorfod gwasgu botwm i benderfynu. Yr wyf yn siŵr y byddai wrth ei bodd, ond credaf y byddai'n hollol anghywir i rym gwleidyddol fod yn gymaint rhan o'r penderfynu.

Darren Millar: Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to this debate, Deputy Presiding Officer.

Yr wyf yn croesawu'r tro pedol presennol gan y Llywodraeth Lafur-Plaid ynglŷn â dileu'r 22 BILl. Mae hyn yn ein rhoi yn ôl ar ben y ffordd tuag at yr hyn y byddai'n llawer gwell gennym ni, Geidwadwyr Cymru, a phobl Cymru, ei weld, sef gwasanaeth iechyd llai biwrocraataidd yng Nghymru, heb loteri cod post. Yr hyn sy'n fy mhoeni i, fodd bynnag, yw'r ffordd y mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru fel petai'n fodlon dal ati i dincran â'r system, yn hytrach na dangos y gallu i sefydlu rhywbeth gwerth chweil ar gyfer y tymor hir, i brawfesur ein gwasanaeth iechyd o safbwynt y dyfodol.

Er bod y cynigion hyn i'w croesawu, nid ydynt eto'n mynd yn ddigon pell i leihau'r beichiau gweinyddol yn y system. Mae dull Llafur o ymdrin â pholisi, yn sicr polisi GIG, yn fy atgoffa o wyllo plentyn bach yn adeiladu tŵr o frics Lego, ac yna'n eu taro i lawr ar ei union ar ôl cyrraedd uchder penodol. Bydd y diwygiadau hyn yn mynd â ni yn ôl bron i bum mlynedd i'r adeg pan oedd gennym awdurdodau iechyd yng Nghymru. Yn wir, ni allaf ddeall pam nad yw'r byrddau iechyd lleol newydd hyn yn cael eu galw'n awdurdodau iechyd. Gadewch inni gofio'r hyn a ddywedodd Jane Hutt wrthym brin bum mlynedd yn ôl. Dywedodd y byddai'r system newydd o fyrddau iechyd lleol

‘yn rhoi ymdeimlad o adnewyddu a phwrpas i'n gwasanaeth iechyd gwladol yng Nghymru dros y deng mlynedd nesaf’.

Bum mlynedd yn ddiweddarach ac maent yn cael eu diddymu. Mewn cyfweiliad gyda'r *Western Mail* yn 2003, cyhoeddodd y Prif Weinidog y byddem, o ganlyniad i'r strwythur newydd, yn unigryw yn y Deyrnas Unedig. Yr ydym bron yn sicr yn unigryw, ond am y rhesymau anghywir i gyd.

There are a number of concerns that I would like to raise with the Minister today regarding this latest restructuring. I would like the Minister to be able to confirm that, with these changes, there will be no detrimental effect to the existing services and patient care provided in the NHS. With the NHS already struggling under a mountain of red tape and bureaucracy, I would be grateful to know exactly what measures are in place to ensure that patient care remains the top priority through this restructuring programme. I would also like to have some assurances today that local authorities will be properly consulted and engaged in any discussions that take place about the future, especially given the potential impact on social services departments. The issue of coterminosity has already been raised and if Brian Gibbons has his way, there may well be coterminosity with these local health boards in the future.

The other concern that I would like to raise, Minister, is that I feel that restructuring must not initiate a round of high-level pay offs for the senior managers and other personnel whose posts may no longer be required as a result of this restructuring exercise. We have an NHS that is stretched for resources and the last thing that the Welsh taxpayer wants to see is huge sums being paid out that could otherwise have been directed to front-line care. In an effort to streamline services, I hope that the Labour-Plaid coalition will continue to remain focused on the other aspects of healthcare in Wales that need to improve.

I wonder, for example, whether we can expect the outcome of the many reviews that are yet to report. How will this restructure impact upon those reviews—for example, the review of neurosurgery? That is a matter of great concern to the people of north Wales. What will the impact be on the review into the future of Abergele hospital in my constituency?

2.30 p.m.

I am concerned about this, as are my constituents, and the whole engagement process, in terms of the reorganisation, must

Mae nifer o bryderon yr hoffwn eu codi gyda'r Gweinidog heddiw ynglŷn â'r ad-drefnu diweddaraf hwn. Hoffwn i'r Gweinidog allu cadarnhau na fydd dim effaith niweidiol, gyda'r newidiadau hyn, ar y gwasanaethau presennol a'r gofal i gleifion a ddarperir yn y GIG. Gan fod y GIG eisoes yn brwydro o dan fynydd o dâp coch a biwrocratiaeth, hoffwn wybod pa fesurau yn union sydd wedi'u sefydlu i sicrhau mai gofal i gleifion yw'r flaenoriaeth bennaf o hyd drwy'r rhaglen ad-drefnu hon. Hoffwn hefyd gael rhyw sicrwydd heddiw yr ymgynghorir yn briodol ag awdurdodau lleol ac y bydd llais iddynt mewn unrhyw drafodaethau a gynhelir ynglŷn â'r dyfodol, yn enwedig o gofio'r effaith bosibl ar adrannau gwasanaethau cymdeithasol. Mae mater rhannu ffiniau eisoes wedi ei godi, ac os caiff Brian Gibbons ei ffordd mae'n ddigon posibl y bydd rhannu ffiniau â'r byrddau iechyd lleol hyn yn y dyfodol.

Y pryder arall yr hoffwn ei godi, Weinidog, yw fy mod yn teimlo na ddylai ad-drefnu roi cychwyn ar gylch o daliadau mawr i gael gwared ag uwch reolwyr a phersonél eraill na fydd angen eu swyddi mwyach efallai oherwydd yr ymarferiad ad-drefnu hwn. Mae gennym GIG sy'n brin o adnoddau, a'r peth olaf y mae'r trethdalwr yng Nghymru am ei weld yw symiau enfawr yn cael eu talu a allai fel arall gael eu rhoi i ofal rheng flaen. Mewn ymdrech i symleiddio gwasanaethau, gobeithio y bydd y glymblaid Lafur-Plaid yn dal i ganolbwyntio ar agweddau eraill ar ofal iechyd yng Nghymru y mae angen iddynt wella.

Ysgwn i, er enghraifft, a allwn ddisgwyl canlyniad y llu adolygiadau nad ydynt eto wedi cyflwyno adroddiad. Sut bydd yr ad-drefnu hwn yn effeithio ar yr adolygiadau hynny—er enghraifft, yr adolygiad o niwrolawdriniaeth? Mae hwnnw'n fater o bwys mawr i bobl y gogledd. Beth fydd yr effaith ar yr adolygiad o ddyfodol ysbty Abergele yn fy etholaeth i?

Yr wyf yn poeni am hyn, fel y mae fy etholwyr, a rhaid peidio â gadael i'r holl broses ymgysylltu, o ran yr ad-drefnu, dynnu

not be allowed to sidetrack people so that we do not get decisions on these issues for a long time.

Also, as you are aware, Minister, the boards of the Conwy and Denbighshire NHS Trust and the North East Wales NHS Trust have given their support to the merger of the two trusts into a bigger trust this week. I have given my personal support to their calls for a merger, and I hope that, in your response, you will be able to give some indication of what you intend to do now that they have submitted their request to merge to your offices. I am very concerned, particularly about the patient care element, Minister.

Helen Mary Jones: I am still somewhat at a loss to see what this debate is trying to achieve and I am not much the wiser having heard the explanations. When Plaid Cymru was in opposition, we tended to think that it was our job to scrutinise the current Government, not to scrutinise decisions that were taken two Governments ago. I point out to Jonathan Morgan and his colleagues that this is not the same Government that took the decision that we are supposed to be debating today; it is a different Government, of a different political complexion, and it has a clear Government programme in 'One Wales'. That said, the question is interesting and it is what is on the agenda, so that is the question that I will address.

Nick Bourne: Will you take an intervention?

Helen Mary Jones: I am very happy to take an intervention from the leader of the opposition, as always.

Nick Bourne: I am very grateful for that kind comment. Given that it is a different Government, does that mean that you will not all be voting in the same way; that you have a free vote, and will perhaps vote in favour of this motion if you are against the 22 health boards?

Helen Mary Jones: We will vote with the Government and we will oppose your motion, and I am about to tell you why. Was

sylw pobl oddi ar y trywydd, fel na chawn benderfyniadau am y materion hyn am amser hir.

Hefyd, fel y gwyddoch, Weinidog, yr wythnos hon mae byrddau Ymddiriedolaeth GIG Conwy a Sir Ddinbych ac Ymddiriedolaeth GIG Gogledd Ddwyrain Cymru wedi cefnogi uno'r ddwy ymddiriedolaeth yn un ymddiriedolaeth fwy. Yr wyf fi'n bersonol wedi cefnogi eu cais am uno, a gobeithio y gallwch, wrth ymateb, roi rhyw awgrym o'r hyn y bwriadwch ei wneud gan eu bod yn awr wedi cyflwyno'u cais am gael uno i'ch swyddfeydd. Yr wyf yn poeni'n fawr, yn enwedig am yr elfen gofal cleifion, Weinidog.

Helen Mary Jones: Nid wyf yn deall eto beth y mae'r ddadl hon yn ceisio'i gyflawni, ac nid wyf fawr callach ar ôl clywed yr esboniadau. Pan oedd Plaid Cymru'n wrthblaid, tueddem i feddwl mai ein gwaith oedd craffu ar y Llywodraeth ar y pryd, yn hytrach na chraffu ar benderfyniadau dwy Lywodraeth yn ôl. Tynnaf sylw Jonathan Morgan a'i gyd-Aelodau at y ffaith nad yr un Llywodraeth yw hon â'r Llywodraeth a wnaeth y penderfyniad yr ydym i fod yn cael dadl arno heddiw; Llywodraeth wahanol yw hi, a'i haniau wleidyddol yn wahanol. Mae ganddi raglen glir i'r Llywodraeth yn 'Cymru'n Un'. Wedi dweud hynny, mae'n gwestiwn diddorol a dyna sydd ar yr agenda, felly, dyna'r cwestiwn yr wyf am fynd i'r afael ag ef.

Nick Bourne: A ydych yn fodlon imi ymyrryd?

Helen Mary Jones: Yr wyf yn falch iawn o adael i arweinydd y gwrthbleidiau ymyrryd, fel bob amser.

Nick Bourne: Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar iawn am y sylw caredig hwnnw. A bwrw mai Llywodraeth wahanol yw hi, a yw hynny'n golygu na fyddwch i gyd yn pleidleisio yn yr un ffordd, bod gennych bleidlais rydd, ac y byddwch efallai'n pleidleisio o blaid y cynnig hwn os ydych yn erbyn y 22 bwrdd iechyd?

Helen Mary Jones: Byddwn yn pleidleisio gyda'r Llywodraeth a byddwn yn gwrthwynebu'ch cynnig, ac yr wyf ar fin

that Government right to set structures in place that aimed to make health decision making more locally accountable? Yes, it probably was. Was it right to set in place structures that aimed to facilitate closer co-operation between healthcare and social services? Yes, it probably was. Was setting up the local health boards the right way to do it? It probably was not, and we know by now that it did not work, on the whole. In this debate, we should acknowledge the good work that has been facilitated by some local health boards and their staff, and we should acknowledge that there has been some innovative, good collaborative practice between local health boards and local authorities. However, it is widely acknowledged overall that the local health board model has not worked as planned, and that is why this current One Wales Government is, rightly, in my view, consulting on a new model.

If the local health board model did not work, why was that? There are a range of issues, but one underlies them all. It is one that leads me to be somewhat surprised that it is the Conservative group that has tabled this debate. Why did local health boards not succeed? There were too many of them and they were too small. Why was that? It was because the Government at the time set the local health board boundaries to be coterminous with local authority boundaries. That pattern of boundaries was established by a Conservative Secretary of State in a historic defiance—[*Interruption.*] If any of the gentlemen opposite would like to intervene, I would be happy to take an intervention. I cannot hear what they are saying.

Nick Bourne: You will have seen that a Government Minister is indicating that it might be reduced to eight. I do not know whether all members of the Government share that view, but it is certainly coming from that side. Are you saying that you would want more than 22? I do not believe that that is your party's policy.

Helen Mary Jones: The leader of the opposition is, as ever, impatient, and I am about to address that issue.

dweud wrthych pam. A oedd y Llywodraeth honno'n iawn i greu strwythurau er mwyn ceisio gwneud llunio penderfyniadau ynglŷn ag iechyd yn fwy atebol yn lleol? Oedd, mae'n debyg. A oedd yn iawn i greu strwythurau er mwyn ceisio hwyluso cydweithredu agosach rhwng gwasanaethau gofal iechyd a gwasanaethau cymdeithasol? Oedd, mae'n debyg. Ai sefydlu'r byrddau iechyd lleol oedd y ffordd iawn i wneud hynny? Nage, mae'n debyg, a gwyddom erbyn hyn nad oedd hyn yn llwyddiant, ar y cyfan. Yn y ddadl hon, dylem gydnabod y gwaith da sydd wedi'i hwyluso gan rai byrddau iechyd lleol a'u staff, a dylem gydnabod bod rhywfaint o waith arloesol, cydweithredol da rhwng byrddau iechyd lleol ac awdurdodau lleol. Fodd bynnag, drwyddi draw, cydnabyddir yn gyffredinol nad yw model y bwrdd iechyd lleol wedi gweithio fel y bwriadwyd, a dyna pam y mae'r Llywodraeth bresennol hon, Llywodraeth Cymru'n Un, yn ymgynghori am fodel newydd, a hynny'n iawn, yn fy marn i.

Os methiant oedd y model bwrdd iechyd lleol, pam? Mae nifer o resymau, ond mae un yn sail iddynt i gyd. Mae'n rheswm sy'n fy ngwneud i synnu braidd mai'r grŵp Ceidwadol sydd wedi cyflwyno'r ddadl hon. Pam na lwyddodd y byrddau iechyd lleol? Yr oedd gormod ohonynt ac yr oeddent yn rhy fach. Pam? Oherwydd i'r Llywodraeth ar y pryd bennu ffiniau'r byrddau iechyd lleol i gyd-fynd â ffiniau awdurdodau lleol. Sefydlwyd patrwm y ffiniau gan Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Ceidwadol drwy gymryd cam hanesyddol o herfeiddiol—[*Torri ar draws.*] Petai unrhyw rai o'r gwŷr bonheddig gyferbyn yn dymuno ymyrryd, byddwn yn falch gadael iddynt wneud hynny. Ni allaf glywed yr hyn y maent yn ei ddweud.

Nick Bourne: Byddwch wedi gweld bod un o Weinidogion y Llywodraeth yn awgrymu y gellid gostwng y nifer i wyth. Ni wn a yw pob aelod o'r Llywodraeth yn cytuno â'r farn honno, ond mae'n sicr yn dod o'r ochr honno. A ydych yn dweud y byddech am gael mwy na 22? Ni chredaf mai dyna yw polisi eich plaid.

Helen Mary Jones: Mae arweinydd y gwrthbleidiau mor ddiamynedd ag erioed, ac yr wyf ar fin sôn am hynny.

That pattern of boundaries was set in place by a Conservative Secretary of State in a historic defiance of logic, common sense and natural community affinities, and many of us at that time believed it to be motivated by a desire to hamstring and disempower local democracies in Wales that the Tories could not politically control—the Tories did not succeed in doing that. It was either that or it demonstrated a breathtaking lack of understanding of Wales and Welsh communities on the part of a Secretary of State who famously never spent a single night here. It depends, Deputy Presiding Officer, on whether you believe in the cock-up or conspiracy theory of Conservative governance in Wales.

David Melding: Would you be kind enough to tell us which local authorities you think are incoherent? I am sure that the local people of those areas, and the local councillors and leadership, would find that very helpful.

Helen Mary Jones: Those are specific issues that we will need to debate. I would not want to go into them today, but I can give you an example that goes back to the time when I worked for Barnados. We knew of two families who could have consumed the whole social services budget of the new Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council. That said, staff have dealt very bravely with a difficult situation, and I will return to that issue, if I may.

We are debating history, which is why I felt free to go back to 1996. I wonder whether Jonathan Morgan and his colleagues would like to apologise for that set of decisions, because it undoubtedly created problems. Whether the model of local government that we currently operate can deliver is not strictly a debate for today, but my view is that the jury is out. It is a great credit—and this comes back to David Melding's point—to staff that services in some of the smaller county borough councils did not grind to a halt in 1996, when they were put under enormous pressure. It is not always the smallest local authorities that perform poorly,

Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Ceidwadol a sefydlodd y patrwm ffiniau hwnnw wrth gymryd cam hanesyddol herfeiddiol a oedd yn groes i resymeg, synnwyr cyffredin a chysylltiadau naturiol rhwng cymunedau. Credai llawer ohonom ar y pryd mai'r cymhelliant oedd awydd i lyffetheirio a gwanhau democratiaethau lleol yng Nghymru yr oedd y Torïaid yn methu eu rheoli'n wleidyddol—ni lwyddodd y Torïaid i wneud hynny. Naill ai hynny neu yr oedd yn dangos diffyg dealltwriaeth syfrdanol o Gymru a chymunedau Cymru ar ran Ysgrifennydd Gwladol a oedd yn enwog am beidio â threulio'r un noson yma. Mae'n dibynnu, Ddirprwy Brif Weinidog, ar ba theori yr ydych yn ei chredu ynglŷn â llywodraethu'r Ceidwadwyr yng Nghymru, ai'r theori smonach ynteu'r theori cynllwyn.

David Melding: A fydddech mor garedig â dweud wrthym pa awdurdodau lleol sydd, yn eich barn chi, yn ddigyswllt? Yr wyf yn siŵr y byddai hynny o gymorth mawr i bobl leol yn yr ardaloedd hynny, i'r cynghorwyr lleol ac i'w harweinwyr.

Helen Mary Jones: Mae'r rheini'n faterion penodol y bydd angen inni ddadlau yn eu cylch. Ni fyddwn am sôn amdanynt heddiw, ond gallaf roi enghraifft ichi sy'n mynd yn ôl i'r adeg pan oeddwn yn gweithio i Barnados. Gwyddem am ddau deulu a allai fod wedi llyncu cyllideb gwasanaethau cymdeithasol Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol newydd Merthyr Tudful yn ei chrynswth. Wedi dweud hynny, mae'r staff wedi ymdopi'n ddewr iawn â sefyllfa anodd, a dychwelaf at hynny, os caf.

Dadlau ynglŷn â hanes yr ydym, a dyna pam yr oeddwn yn teimlo bod rhwydd hynt imi fynd yn ôl i 1996. Tybed a fyddai Jonathan Morgan a'i gyd-Aelodau yn hoffi ymddiheuro am y set honno o benderfyniadau, oherwydd, yn ddiamau, creodd broblemau. A all y model llywodraeth leol sydd ar waith gennym ar hyn o bryd gyflawni ei waith? Nid dadl ar gyfer heddiw yw honno a dweud y gwir, ond fy marn i yw nad yw'r ateb yn glir eto. Mae'n glod mawr i'r staff—a daw hyn yn ôl at bwynt David Melding—na ddaeth gwasanaethau rhai o'r cynghorau bwrdeistref sirol lleiaf i ben yn 1996 pan roddwyd pwysau enfawr arnynt.

and it would be unfair to suggest that that was the case. With enhanced co-operation and strong local and national leadership, perhaps the current local government model can be made to deliver, but that does not mean that it was the right model to put in place in 1996. As we are asking for historic apologies, perhaps the leader of the opposition will make one for that particular set of decisions.

In conclusion, other speakers have been right to say that we should leave history behind us. I urge all of us to respond to this Government's consultation on how we should make decisions in the health service today. We need the broadest possible input, and, in fairness, I am grateful for some of the positive comments from the Conservative benches. I am not sure that they fully realise that the Minister proposes to take their much-beloved market out of the health service, but I am glad that she is proposing that. I look forward to debating those proposals when the time is right.

Trish Law: Had I been around at the time, I might have been persuaded by the arguments of those among you who opposed the creation of 22 local health boards on the grounds that it would give rise to the advent of 22 costly bureaucracies. Five years on, based on my knowledge of Blaenau Gwent Local Health Board, I can say that there are distinct advantages in having LHB boundaries that are coterminous with local authority boundaries. Indeed, the LHB and Blaenau Gwent social services department work closely together, even to the point of sharing the same offices in Abertillery.

One of the best and recent examples of practical partnership is the development of Healthier Future 2, the second health, social care and wellbeing strategy for Blaenau Gwent. The strategy encourages local organisations and communities to work together to realise the shared vision of improving the health and wellbeing of everyone living and working in Blaenau Gwent. Blaenau Gwent LHB also works

Nid yr awdurdodau lleol lleiaf bob amser sy'n perfformio'n wael, a byddai'n annheg awgrymu mai felly y mae. Gyda gwell cydweithrediad ac arweiniad cryf yn lleol ac yn genedlaethol, efallai y gellid sicrhau bod y model llywodraeth leol sydd gennym ar hyn o bryd yn gallu cyflawni ei waith, ond nid yw hynny'n golygu mai hwnnw oedd y model iawn i'w sefydlu yn 1996. Gan ein bod yn gofyn am ymddiheuriadau hanesyddol, efallai y bydd arweinydd yr wrthblaid yn ymddiheuro am y set benodol honno o benderfyniadau.

I gloi, mae siaradwyr eraill wedi bod yn gywir i ddweud y dylem adael hanes y tu ôl inni. Anogaf ni bob un i ymateb i ymgynghoriad y Llywodraeth hon ar y ffordd y dylem lunio penderfyniadau yn y gwasanaeth iechyd heddiw. Mae angen inni gael cymaint â phosibl o gyfraniad, ac i fod yn deg, yr wyf yn ddiolchgar am rai o'r sylwadau cadarnhaol gan feinciau'r Ceidwadwyr. Nid wyf yn siŵr eu bod yn llwyr sylweddoli bod y Gweinidog yn cynnig dileu eu hannwyl farchnad o'r gwasanaeth iechyd, ond yr wyf yn falch ei bod yn cynnig hynny. Edrychaf ymlaen at ddadlau'r cynigion hynny pan ddaw'r adeg.

Trish Law: Petawn yno ar y pryd, efallai y byddai dadleuon y rheini yn eich plith a oedd yn gwrthwynebu creu'r 22 bwrdd iechyd lleol wedi fy mherswadio, ar y sail y byddai'n arwain at 22 o fiwrocratiaethau costus. Bum mlynedd yn ddiweddarach, ar sail fy ngwybodaeth am Fwrdd Iechyd Lleol Blaenau Gwent, gallaf ddweud bod manteision clir o gael ffiniau BILl sy'n cyfateb i ffiniau awdurdodau lleol. Yn wir, mae'r BILl ac adran gwasanaethau cymdeithasol Blaenau Gwent yn cydweithio'n glos, a hyd yn oed yn rhannu'r un swyddfeydd yn Abertyleri.

Un o'r enghreifftiau diweddar gorau o bartneriaeth ymarferol yw datblygu Dyfodol Iachach 2, yr ail strategaeth iechyd, gofal cymdeithasol a lles ar gyfer Blaenau Gwent. Mae'r strategaeth yn annog sefydliadau a chymunedau lleol i gydweithio er mwyn gwireddu eu cydweledigaeth o wella iechyd a lles pawb sy'n byw ac yn gweithio ym Mlaenau Gwent. Mae BILl Blaenau Gwent yn gweithio'n agos hefyd gyda'r boblogaeth

closely with its local population, inviting public participation on health-related matters, and consulting on any significant changes.

The current poor health status of much of the resident population of Blaenau Gwent is a direct result of their socio-economic history over several generations. Major improvements in population health will take at least another generation. The role of the LHB in the case of Blaenau Gwent is therefore critical.

One of the things that disturb me about the proposed dismantling of the present LHB structure is that, in the case of Blaenau Gwent, it would merge with four other LHBs to cover the same area as Gwent Healthcare NHS Trust. The disturbing point is that these five LHBs enjoy their own separate and distinctive cultures. In particular, Blaenau Gwent has little in common in terms of health problems and solutions with Newport and Monmouthshire.

The Blaenau Gwent healthier future partnership, which is principally a partnership between the LHB and the council and which has a clear understanding of local needs, has developed and implemented a model of health, social care and wellbeing services that is specific to Blaenau Gwent. I find it cruelly ironic that moves to take the 'L' out of LHBs come at a time when the Minister for Social Justice and Local Government is advocating closer collaboration between local government and health.

If something is not broken there is no need to mend it, and I contend that Blaenau Gwent LHB is in fine fettle and is best placed, in partnership with the council, to improve the overall health and wellbeing of the population of Blaenau Gwent, and to make Blaenau Gwent the focus of service development and innovation. Therefore, I shall vote against this Conservative motion.

Alun Davies: I share the disappointment of other speakers in this debate that the Conservative opposition has again chosen to focus on the structures of the health service, rather than the delivery of health services. I assume that that is down to their vacuous policies on health today and in the past.

leol, gan wahodd y cyhoedd i gymryd rhan mewn materion iechyd ac ymgynghori â hwy ynglŷn ag unrhyw newidiadau o bwys.

Mae statws iechyd gwael cymaint o'r boblogaeth sy'n byw ym Mlaenau Gwent ar hyn o bryd yn deillio'n uniongyrchol o'u hanes cymdeithasol-economaidd dros nifer o genedlaethau. Bydd angen cenhedlaeth arall o leiaf i sicrhau gwelliannau mawr yn iechyd y boblogaeth. Felly, mae gan y BILl yn achos Blaenau Gwent rôl hollbwysig.

Un o'r pethau sy'n fy mhoeni am y cynnig i ddatgymalu strwythur presennol y BILl yw y byddai, yn achos Blaenau Gwent, yn uno â phedwar BILl i wasanaethu'r un ardal ag y mae Ymddiriedolaeth GIG Gofal Iechyd Gwent yn ei gwasanaethu. Yr hyn sy'n destun pryder yw bod gan y pum BILl hyn eu diwylliant gwahanol eu hunain. Yn benodol, ychydig sy'n gyffredin rhwng Blaenau Gwent, o ran problemau ac atebion iechyd, a Chasnewydd a sir Fynwy.

Mae partneriaeth dyfodol iachach Blaenau Gwent, sef partneriaeth rhwng y BILl a'r cyngor yn y bôn sy'n deall anghenion lleol yn iawn, wedi datblygu a gweithredu model o wasanaethau iechyd, gofal cymdeithasol a lles sy'n benodol ar gyfer Blaenau Gwent. Mae'n greulon o eironig ein bod yn gweld symudiadau i dynnu'r 'Ll' o'r BILlau yn awr, a'r Gweinidog dros Gyfiawnder Cymdeithasol a Llywodraeth Leol o blaid cydweithredu agosach rhwng llywodraeth leol ac iechyd.

Nid oes angen trwsio rhywbeth nad yw wedi torri, ac yr wyf yn dadlau bod BILl Blaenau Gwent yn iach fel cneuen ac yn y lle gorau, ar y cyd â'r cyngor, i wella iechyd a lles cyffredinol poblogaeth Blaenau Gwent, ac i wneud Blaenau Gwent yn ganolbwynt datblygu gwasanaethau ac arloesi. Felly, byddaf yn pleidleisio yn erbyn y cynnig hwn gan y Ceidwadwyr.

Alun Davies: Yr wyf mor siomedig â siaradwyr eraill yn y ddadl hon fod yr wrthblaid Geidwadol unwaith eto wedi dewis canolbwyntio ar strwythurau'r gwasanaeth iechyd, yn hytrach nag ar ddarparu gwasanaethau iechyd. Tybiaf mai eu polisiau gweigion ar gyfer iechyd heddiw ac yn y

gorffennol sy'n gyfrifol am hynny.

2.40 p.m.

My first, second and third priority in health policy is the delivery of services.

Fy mlaenoriaeth gyntaf, fy ail flaenoriaeth a'm trydedd flaenoriaeth o ran polisi iechyd yw darparu gwasanaethau.

David Melding: It is heartwarming to hear the Member's commitment to the delivery of services. However, has he not noticed that this major structural change has been proposed by his Government? Perhaps the Government should have concentrated on services.

David Melding: Mae clywed ymrwymiad yr Aelod i ddarparu gwasanaethau yn codi calon rhywun. Fodd bynnag, onid yw wedi sylwi mai ei Lywodraeth ef sydd wedi cynnig y newid strwythurol mawr hwn? Efallai y dylai'r Llywodraeth fod wedi canolbwyntio ar wasanaethau.

Alun Davies: My next line, David, was that I recognise that services have to be delivered within an overall financial, clinical and managerial structure. I hope that, within that structure, there will be room for democracy and accountability—something that the Conservative Government never understood.

Alun Davies: Fy llinell nesaf, David, oedd fy mod yn cydnabod ei bod yn rhaid darparu gwasanaethau o fewn strwythur ariannol, clinigol a rheolaethol cyffredinol. Gobeithio y bydd lle, o fewn y strwythur hwnnw, i ddemocratiaeth ac atebolrwydd—rhywbeth nad yw'r Llywodraeth Geidwadol erioed wedi'i ddeall.

I will make two points about the current re-organisation and how, I hope, it will improve the delivery of services in the future. First, like many other Assembly Members, I welcome the abolition of the internal market structure in the national health service. It has been one of the most disruptive elements in the delivery of healthcare for the people of this country for decades. I am delighted to see that internal market being abolished.

Gwnaf ddau bwynt am yr ad-drefnu presennol ac am y ffordd y bydd gobeithio, yn gwella darparu gwasanaethau yn y dyfodol. Yn gyntaf, fel nifer o Aelodau Cynulliad eraill, croesawaf ddileu strwythur y farchnad fewnol yn y gwasanaeth iechyd gwladol. Mae wedi bod yn un o'r elfennau sydd wedi tarfu fwyaf ar ddarparu gofal iechyd i bobl y wlad hon ers degawdau. Yr wyf wrth fy modd gweld y farchnad fewnol honno'n cael ei dileu.

Jonathan Morgan: We need to challenge what is a complete misnomer about the internal market. What internal market mechanisms work in the national health service today?

Jonathan Morgan: Mae angen inni herio'r hyn sy'n gamddefnyddio llwyr ar y term marchnad fewnol. Pa rai o fecanweithiau'r farchnad fewnol sydd ar waith yn y gwasanaeth iechyd gwladol heddiw?

Alun Davies: The Conservative Government tried to do two things—[*Interruption.*]. I will answer your question but I will do so in my way, not in your way. The Conservative Government tried to do two things in the national health service and failed with both. It said that it wanted to make it more local, so it abolished the health authorities and appointed chief executives who were accountable to no-one except themselves. The Conservative Government created 200 new quangos, none of which were accountable to local people. At

Alun Davies: Ceisiodd y Llywodraeth Geidwadol wneud dau beth—[*Torri ar draws.*]. Atebaf eich cwestiwn, ond yn fy ffordd i, nid yn eich ffordd chi. Ceisiodd y Llywodraeth Geidwadol wneud dau beth yn y gwasanaeth iechyd gwladol a methu gyda'r ddau. Dywedodd ei bod am ei wneud yn fwy lleol, felly, dileodd yr awdurdodau iechyd a phenododd brif weithredwyr nad oeddent yn atebol i neb ond hwy eu hunain. Creodd y Llywodraeth Geidwadol 200 o gwangos newydd, ac nid oedd yr un ohonynt yn atebol

the same time, by introducing a market mechanism into the health service, it created tensions in the delivery of healthcare, which meant that people suffered in their daily lives and hospital and community services suffered and no-one gained except the Conservatives who had seats on some of these various quangos.

Jonathan Morgan: Will you give way?

Alun Davies: I will not give way again. I only have two minutes to speak.

I look forward to the debate that we will have on the re-organisation. Minister, in taking the re-organisation forward, will you ensure that local accountability remains at the heart of our health service? It is difficult to create, manage and organise a health service as complex as that which we have in Wales and in the United Kingdom, because we need to do two things that often create tensions with each other. First, we need a unified, national service in which we do not duplicate back-office functions and people can transfer between hospitals and services to receive the service that they require, but, at the same time, we need local accountability and local management. One of the greatest tragedies of the Conservative re-organisation was that the Government took the health service away from local people. I hope that, in our re-organisation, we will be able to achieve the balance between having a national, unified system as well as local accountability and democracy. I look forward to listening to the Minister's response.

The Minister for Health and Social Services (Edwina Hart): Any proposed changes or those that might emerge as a result of this consultation document will not impact on services for patients. Ultimately, the key is that services for patients must be maintained and enhanced. I want to make that clear in respect of Darren's previous contribution.

I am not sure that your speech was for the Chamber, Jonathan; it was perhaps more for the wider world that might be taking democratic decisions on international workers' day, on 1 May. However, it is the

i bobl leol. Ar yr un pryd, drwy gyflwyno mecanwaith y farchnad i'r gwasanaeth iechyd, creodd densiynau wrth ddarparu gofal iechyd, a olygodd fod pobl yn dioddef yn eu bywyd bob dydd a bod gwasanaethau ysbytai a gwasanaethau yn y gymuned yn dioddef. Nid oedd neb ar ei ennill, heblaw'r Ceidwadwyr, a oedd â seddi ar rai o'r amrywiol gwangos hyn.

Jonathan Morgan: A wnewch chi ildio?

Alun Davies: Nid wyf am ildio eto. Dim ond dau funud sydd gennyf i siarad.

Edrychaf ymlaen at y ddadl a gawn am yr ad-drefnu. Weinidog, wrth fwrw ymlaen â'r ad-drefnu, a wnewch chi sicrhau bod atebolrwydd lleol yn dal wrth galon ein gwasanaeth iechyd? Mae'n anodd creu, rheoli a threfnu gwasanaeth iechyd mor gymhleth â hwnnw sydd gennym yng Nghymru ac yn y Deyrnas Unedig, oherwydd mae angen inni wneud dau beth sy'n aml yn creu tensiynau rhwng ei gilydd. Yn gyntaf, mae arnom angen gwasanaeth unedig, cenedlaethol lle nad ydym yn dyblygu swyddogaethau'r swyddfa gefn a lle y gall pobl drosglwyddo o'r naill ysbyty a'r naill wasanaeth i'r llall i gael y gwasanaeth y mae arnynt ei angen. Ond ar yr un pryd, mae arnom angen atebolrwydd lleol a rheolaeth leol. Un o drasiediau mwyaf yr ad-drefnu gan y Ceidwadwyr oedd fod y Llywodraeth wedi cymryd y gwasanaeth iechyd oddi ar bobl leol. Wrth i ni ad-drefnu, gobeithio y gallwn sicrhau'r cydbwysedd rhwng cael system genedlaethol, unedig a democratiaeth ac atebolrwydd lleol. Edrychaf ymlaen at wrando ar ymateb y Gweinidog.

Y Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol (Edwina Hart): Ni fydd yr un newid a gynigir, nac unrhyw newid a all ddeillio o'r ddogfen ymgynghori hon, yn cael effaith ar wasanaethau i gleifion. Yn y pen draw, yr allwedd yw ei bod yn rhaid cynnal a gwella gwasanaethau i gleifion. Yr wyf am wneud hynny'n glir ynglŷn â chyfraniad blaenorol Darren.

Nid wyf yn siŵr ai ar gyfer y Siambr yr oedd eich araith, Jonathan; efallai ei bod yn fwy ar gyfer y byd ehangach a all fod yn gwneud penderfyniadau democrataidd ar ddiwrnod rhyngwladol y gweithwyr, ar 1 Mai. Fodd

right of the opposition to raise these issues and to make suggestions around why the Government has not done certain things and why it appears to be changing policy. The one remark in your contribution that I do not accept was the notion that I do not want committees to look at things. I have always tried to be constructive in my dialogue with committees and to assist them, even as a Minister in the new structure, in the best way that I can. I felt that there was an insinuation that I did not want things to be looked at. Nothing could be further from the truth. As I made clear to the committee this morning, I want a genuine debate on these proposals.

I want to see what comes out of this. I want to hear views such as those that have been expressed in the Chamber today about localism and need. If people feel that further reform is needed, I want them to say so. That is the purpose of an open consultation.

Some very positive contributions were made in this discussion, and I have taken on board some of Jenny Randerson's comments about how this system worked in engaging the local population. That is why I am particularly pleased to support two amendments in the name of Kirsty Williams: amendment 2 and amendment 5. Amendment 2 is concerned with maintaining strong links with local authorities, which is one of the best parts of the arrangements that we have had throughout. Amendment 5 is concerned with ensuring a strong voice for patients and clinicians. Therefore, I am happy to accept both of those Welsh Liberal Democrat amendments, as they reflect where I will be going in further discussions.

In her contribution today, Jenny raised community health councils, which are another area that we will have to look at following the consultation, given that their boundaries do not currently match those of local authorities. We need to look at how community health councils operate, and at how the health service generally operates. Do we need smaller groups? Do we need fora that include local government organisers? Do those fora need to discuss health on a smaller scale to feed into the service as a whole, now

bynnag, hawl y gwrthbleidiau yw codi'r materion hyn ac awgrymu pam nad yw'r Llywodraeth wedi gwneud pethau penodol a pham ei bod i bob golwg yn newid polisi. Yr un sylw yn eich cyfraniad nad wyf yn ei dderbyn oedd y syniad nad wyf am i bwyllgorau edrych ar bethau. Yr wyf bob amser wedi ceisio bod yn adeiladol wrth gynnal deialog gyda phwyllgorau a'u cynorthwyo orau y gallaf, hyd yn oed fel Gweinidog yn y strwythur newydd. Teimlwn eich bod yn ensynio nad oeddwn am i bobl edrych ar bethau. Ni allai dim fod ymhellach o'r gwir. Fel y'i gwneuthum yn glir yn y pwyllgor y bore yma, yr wyf am gael dadl wirioneddol ar y cynigion hyn.

Yr wyf am weld beth a ddaw o hyn. Yr wyf am glywed safbwyntiau fel y rheini sydd wedi'u mynegi yn y Siambr heddiw am fod yn lleol ac am angen. Os bydd pobl yn teimlo bod angen mwy o ddiwygio, yr wyf am iddynt ddweud hynny. Dyna yw diben ymgynghori agored.

Cafwyd nifer o gyfraniadau cadarnhaol iawn yn y drafodaeth hon, ac yr wyf wedi nodi rhai o sylwadau Jenny Randerson am y ffordd yr oedd y system hon yn gweithio o ran ymgysylltu â'r boblogaeth leol. Dyna pam yr wyf yn arbennig o falch cefnogi dau welliant yn enw Kirsty Williams: gwelliant 2 a gwelliant 5. Mae gwelliant 2 yn ymwneud â chadw cysylltiadau cryf ag awdurdodau lleol, sef un o rannau gorau'r trefniadau a fu gennym ar hyd yr adeg. Mae gwelliant 5 yn ymwneud â sicrhau llais cryf i gleifion ac i glinigwyr. Felly, yr wyf yn falch derbyn y ddau welliant hyn gan Ddemocratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru, gan eu bod yn adlewyrchu'r cyfeiriad y byddaf yn mynd mewn trafodaethau pellach.

Yn ei chyfraniad heddiw, soniodd Jenny am gynghorau iechyd cymuned, sy'n faes arall y bydd yn rhaid inni edrych arno ar ôl yr ymgynghori, a chofio nad yw eu ffiniau ar hyn o bryd yn cyfateb i ffiniau awdurdodau lleol. Mae angen inni edrych ar y ffordd y mae cynghorau iechyd cymuned yn gweithio a'r ffordd y mae'r gwasanaeth iechyd yn gweithredu'n gyffredinol. A oes arnom angen grwpiau llai? A oes arnom angen fforymau sy'n cynnwys trefnwyr llywodraeth leol? A oes angen i'r fforymau hyn drafod iechyd ar

that we have these larger structures? I am very open to suggestions, as this is part and parcel of the package that I need to look at.

Everyone has referred to the commitment to eliminate the market from the NHS in Wales, which is a core commitment of our policy in the coalition Government, and this takes that process a stage further.

Jonathan Morgan: I am grateful to the Minister for giving way. I tried to find out more details on this in committee this morning, as she knows. Bearing in mind that the health service in Wales today is very from the health service of the 1990s—and we do not need a history lesson on that—could she explain to the Assembly what aspect of internal market mechanisms will be scrapped as a result of this ‘One Wales’ policy? What is it that will be different in the NHS of the future, compared with how it is now?

Edwina Hart: I want to get rid of finally in the NHS is the sea of markets in welfare services generally, and the concept of viewing people in receipt of health services as consumers rather than citizens. There is a distinct difference in these policy lines that I wish to take forward. That seems to be a dividing line in the Assembly between three parties and one, on how Members feel about such issues.

The way forward that I propose in relation to trusts and LHBs is based on the ebbs and flows, to go back to your point, Jonathan. Since I have been Minister, trusts in Wales have made voluntary agreements to take matters such as mergers forward. Earlier, Darren mentioned the north Wales merger, the proposal for which must be winging its way to my desk now. It is an agreement between two trusts to come together, and it is always good when two organisations want to come together. I hope to be in a position to make a decision on that shortly. The case made to me in that proposal is one of critical mass resulting in an improved ability to drive efficiencies, so that money can be moved to patient services. It is an enhanced effort to

raddfa lai er mwyn bwydo i'r gwasanaeth drwyddo draw, gan fod gennym bellach y strwythurau mwy hyn? Yr wyf yn digon bodlon derbyn awgrymiadau, gan fod hyn yn rhan o'r pecyn y mae angen imi edrych arno.

Mae pawb wedi cyfeirio at yr ymrwymiad i ddileu'r farchnad o'r GIG yng Nghymru, sy'n un o ymrwymadau craidd ein polisi yn y Llywodraeth glymblaid, ac mae hyn yn mynd â'r broses honno gam ymhellach.

Jonathan Morgan: Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar iawn i'r Gweinidog am ildio. Ceisiais gael mwy o fanylion am hyn yn y pwyllgor y bore yma, fel y gŵyr. Gan gofio bod y gwasanaeth iechyd heddiw yn wahanol iawn i'r gwasanaeth iechyd yn yr 1990au—ac nid oes arnom angen gwrs hanes ynglŷn â hynny—a all hi esbonio wrth y Cynulliad pa agwedd ar fecanweithiau'r farchnad fewnol sy'n cael ei dileu yn sgil y polisi hwn yn ‘Cymru'n Un’? Beth fydd yn wahanol yn GIG yn y dyfodol, o'i gymharu â'r hyn ydyw yn awr?

Edwina Hart: Yr wyf am gael gwared o'r diwedd â'r llu o farchnadoedd yn y gwasanaethau lles yn gyffredinol, a'r cysyniad bod pobl y darperir gwasanaethau iechyd ar eu cyfer yn cael eu hystyried yn ddefnyddwyr yn hytrach nag yn ddinasyddion. Mae gwahaniaeth amlwg yn y llinellau polisi hyn y dymunaf fwrw ymlaen â hwy. I bob golwg, mae honno'n llinell sy'n rhannu'r Cynulliad yn dair plaid ac yn un balid, o ran y ffordd y mae Aelodau'n teimlo am faterion o'r fath.

Mae'r ffordd ymlaen a gynigaf ar gyfer yr ymddiriedolaethau a'r BILLau yn seiliedig ar y llanw a'r trai, i ddychwelyd at eich pwynt, Jonathan. Ers imi fod yn Weinidog, mae ymddiriedolaethau Cymru wedi cytuno'n wirfoddol i fwrw ymlaen â materion megis uno. Soniodd Darren yn gynharach am yr uno yn y gogledd, ac mae'n siŵr fod y cynnig ar gyfer hynny ar ei ffordd at fy nesg yn awr. Cytundeb ydyw rhwng dwy ymddiriedolaeth i ddod at ei gilydd, ac mae'n beth braf bob amser pan fydd dau sefydliad am uno. Gobeithio y gallaf benderfynu ynglŷn â hynny cyn hir. Y ddadl a gyflwynir imi yn y cynnig hwnnw yw y byddai'r màs critigol yn golygu y gallent arbed arian drwy fod yn fwy effeithlon, fel y gellid symud arian i

address health inequalities in those trusts' areas. That is the key to some of the mergers that have come about. It is a persuasive case, to me. The reforms that are already happening across Wales have persuaded me further to look at the structure of health services.

With a smaller number of trusts and a new approach to funding, in which the purchaser-provider split has been abolished, the future of LHBs inevitably comes under scrutiny. Let me be clear, as this is a consultation paper: the one thing that a change in the number of LHBs does not imply is a diminution of the commitment to localism, which I addressed in my response to Jenny Randerson's contribution. That is a key factor. I also picked up on the point that Trish made, which was that she was in a very lucky position. She was talking about the historic issues for the population in her area. In Blaenau Gwent, she knows of an LHB that has effective dealings with the local authority; they even look to work together on budgets. That follows what Brian was saying about more joint working being needed, and about planning and pooling to see how we can link particular issues.

However, whatever the outcome of the consultation, I stress that it is a consultation. I had to publish the consultation document before we went into purdah for the local government elections; otherwise, I would have been open to even more accusations of a different nature. The consultation is genuine as regards the direction that I want to take on this. We must recognise some of what we have gained from LHBs, including their expertise in assessing local health needs and the direct engagement of key primary care professionals in shaping the future of local services. Substantial achievements have been made in that area, and those are the achievements that we managed to secure by establishing those health boards.

2.50 p.m.

wasanaethau ar gyfer cleifion. Mae'n ymdrech gryfach i fynd i'r afael ag anghydraddoldebau iechyd yn ardaloedd yr ymddiriedolaethau hynny. Dyna'r allwedd i rai o'r cynlluniau uno sydd wedi digwydd. I mi, mae'n ddadl gref. Mae'r diwygiadau sydd eisoes ar y gweill ledled Cymru wedi fy narbwylllo i edrych eto ar strwythur gwasanaethau iechyd.

Gyda llai o ymddiriedolaethau ac agwedd newydd at ariannu, lle mae'r rhaniad rhwng y prynwr a'r darparwr wedi'i ddileu, mae'n anochel bod angen edrych yn ofalus ar ddyfodol BILlau. Gadewch imi fod yn glir, gan mai papur ymgynghori yw hwn: yr un peth nad yw newid nifer y BILlau yn ei awgrymu yw lleihau'r ymrwymiad i'r elfen leol. Dywedais hynny wrth ymateb i gyfraniad Jenny Randerson. Mae hwnnw'n ffactor allweddol. Sylwais hefyd ar y pwynt a wnaeth Trish, sef ei bod mewn sefyllfa ffodus iawn. Yr oedd yn sôn am y materion hanesyddol sy'n berthnasol i boblogaeth ei hardal. Ym Mlaenau Gwent, mae'n gwybod am BILl sy'n ymwneud yn effeithiol â'r awdurdod lleol; maent hyd yn oed yn ceisio gweithio gyda'i gilydd ar gyllidebau. Mae hynny'n dilyn yr hyn yr oedd Brian yn ei ddweud fod angen mwy o gydweithio, ac ynglŷn â chynllunio a chronni i weld sut y gallwn gysylltu materion penodol.

Serch hynny, beth bynnag fydd canlyniad yr ymgynghori, pwysleisïaf mai ymgynghori ydyw. Bu'n rhaid imi gyhoeddi'r ddogfen ymgynghori cyn inni gychwyn ar gyfnod ymgyrchu etholiadau llywodraeth leol; fel arall, byddwn wedi bod yn agored i fwy fyth o gyhuddiadau o natur wahanol. Mae'r ymgynghori'n ddilys o ran y cyfeiriad y dymunaf fynd yn y cyswllt hwn. Rhaid inni gydnabod rhywfaint o'r hyn yr ydym wedi'i ennill dan BILlau, gan gynnwys eu harbenigedd wrth asesu anghenion iechyd lleol ac ymgysylltu'n uniongyrchol â gweithwyr proffesiynol allweddol ym maes gofal sylfaenol wrth lunio dyfodol gwasanaethau lleol. Cafwyd llwyddiant sylweddol yn y maes hwnnw, a'r llwyddiannau hynny a sicrhawyd drwy sefydlu'r byrddau iechyd hynny.

Although I share the view that the commissioning role of LHBs did not deliver the advantages claimed at the outset, I remain fully committed to retaining and developing their achievements, but I must acknowledge that we have had difficulties with commissioning. Recent discussions on the dental contract and other issues have raised questions about the capacity in some of the smaller areas to deliver, and I will have to deal with them.

It is also important that we understand the need to involve professionals, and I take those points on board. However, there must be a balance between the role that professionals play in the service and our role as politicians. I have been talking about setting up a national board to undertake work, but, when decisions relate to policy and resources, I do not think that I can turn my back on my responsibilities in that area, which are properly those of a Minister. I acknowledge David Melding's sound health warning and Mike's comments, but I do not propose to redefine the picture of local partners on whom health drives generally must depend. There are several issues to consider, but I think that the consultation document is structured in such a way as to allow the type of discussion that we have had in the Chamber today. What is now needed is a much firmer grip on the levers of change. We must be more dynamic and creative. The opportunities are there to create new services and to spread good practice, but we must continue to be sensitive to local issues, stressing the importance of working with local partners and having a strong patient and clinician voice.

Many other reviews have been referred to, and they will feed into these issues. I am awaiting the report on Health Commission Wales. Some of the issues around commissioning will be technical, such as who provides which services, and I will be consulting on them.

This debate has been backward-looking, but the discussions and suggestions have also been quite forward-thinking. It has provided an initial stage from which I can pick up the relevant points. However, I hope that people

Er fy mod yn cytuno na lwyddodd rôl comisiynu'r BILlau i wireddu'r manteision a honnwyd ar y cychwyn, yr wyf yn dal yn gwbl ymroddedig i gadw a datblygu eu llwyddiannau, ond rhaid imi gydnabod inni gael anawsterau gyda'r comisiynu. Yn y trafodaethau'n ddiweddar ynglŷn â chontract deintyddion a materion eraill, codwyd cwestiynau ynglŷn â'r capasiti i gyflawni'r gwaith mewn rhai o'r ardaloedd llai, a bydd yn rhaid imi fynd i'r afael â'r rheini.

Mae'n bwysig hefyd inni ddeall bod angen cynnwys gweithwyr proffesiynol, a derbynïaf y sylwadau hynny. Fodd bynnag, rhaid cael cydbwysedd rhwng rôl gweithwyr proffesiynol yn y gwasanaeth a'n rôl ni fel gwleidyddion. Yr wyf wedi bod yn sôn am sefydlu bwrdd cenedlaethol i wneud gwaith, ond pan fydd penderfyniadau'n ymwneud â pholisi ac ag adnoddau, ni chredaf y gallaf gefnu ar fy nghyfrifoldebau yn y maes hwnnw, sef cyfrifoldebau Gweinidog yn eu hanfod. Cydnabyddaf y rhybudd iechyd cadarn gan David Melding a sylwadau Mike, ond ni fwriadaf ailddiffinio'r darlun o bartneriaid lleol y mae ymgyrchoedd iechyd yn gyffredinol yn gorfod dibynnu arnynt. Mae nifer o bethau i'w hystyried, ond credaf fod y ddogfen ymgynghori wedi'i strwythuro yn y fath fodd fel y bydd yn caniatáu'r math o drafodaeth yr ydym wedi'i chael yn y Siambr heddiw. Yr hyn y mae ei angen yn awr yw gafael cadarnach ar yr hyn sy'n sbarduno newid. Rhaid inni fod yn fwy deinamig a chreadigol. Mae'r cyfleoedd yno i greu gwasanaethau newydd ac i ledaenu arferion da, ond rhaid inni ddal yn sensitif i faterion lleol, gan bwysleisio pwysigrwydd gweithio gyda phartneriaid lleol a chael llais cryf i gleifion ac i glinigwyr.

Cyfeiriwyd at nifer o adolygiadau eraill, a byddant yn ychwanegu at y materion hyn. Yr wyf yn disgwyl yr adroddiad ar Gomisiwn Iechyd Cymru. Bydd rhai o'r materion sy'n ymwneud â chomisiynu yn faterion technegol, megis pwy sy'n darparu pa wasanaethau, a byddaf yn ymgynghori ynglŷn â hwy.

Yn y ddal hon buom yn edrych yn ôl, ond mae'r trafodaethau a'r awgrymiadau wedi bod yn eithaf blaengar hefyd. Mae wedi cynnig man cychwyn imi lle gallaf godi'r pwyntiau perthnasol. Fodd bynnag, gobeithio

will respond to the consultation document and make their views known, because I am quite clear that I want to effect change. I might have a view of where the change is going, but I could be persuaded to make further changes, or to do things differently if such a case were made.

The purpose of consulting the service and more widely, as we are doing, is to get the right results, because we do not want to be always changing structures in the national health service; we need to give staff and patients the certainty that we will not do that. It is important that we make progress on this issue and await the outcome of the consultation, which will be received at the end of June when I will make a further statement on this matter. I thank Members for their contributions today.

Nick Bourne: In the limited time that I have left, I will just say that there are two possibilities here: either the original proposition involving 22 health boards was right, or the measure taken by the Minister now is right. They cannot both be right. The Minister has been honest enough to acknowledge that. She knows, as I know, that the proposals and the reforms that were made in 2003, which we were told would last a decade, were a dog's dinner, if not a pig's breakfast.

The beginning of this debate was characterised by two things: an excellent speech from Jonathan Morgan and Jane Hutt, understandably, departing the crime scene right at the start of the debate. When she brought in these reforms, she was well intentioned, committed, and wrong. These reforms were extravagant, and she was warned again and again, but she was elevated, endorsed and encouraged by her boss, the First Minister. There, the two of them were, riding shotgun, a political Bonnie and Clyde, pushing these proposals through, being warned professionally and politically that they were wrong, and wrong they were. Jane Hutt told us, First Minister, and you endorsed it—[*Interruption.*]

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Order. If

y bydd pobl yn ymateb i'r ddogfen ymgynghori ac yn lleisio'u barn, oherwydd yr wyf yn eithaf clir fy mod am roi newid ar waith. Hwyrach fod gennyf farn am gyfeiriad y newid hwnnw, ond gellid fy narbwyllo i newid pethau eraill hefyd, neu i wneud pethau'n wahanol pe bae achos yn cael ei gyflwyno.

Diben ymgynghori â'r gwasanaeth ac yn fwy eang, fel yr ydym yn ei wneud, yw sicrhau'r canlyniadau iawn, oherwydd nid ydym am weld ein hunain yn newid strwythurau o hyd yn y gwasanaeth iechyd gwladol; mae angen inni roi'r sicrwydd i staff ac i gleifion na fyddwn yn gwneud hynny. Mae'n bwysig inni wneud cynnydd gyda'r mater hwn a disgwyl canlyniad yr ymgynghori, a ddaw ddiwedd Mehefin. Gwnaf ddatganiad arall am hyn bryd hynny. Diolchaf i'r Aelodau am eu cyfraniadau heddiw.

Nick Bourne: Yn yr amser prin sy'n weddill imi, y cyfan a ddywedaf yw mai dau bosibilrwydd sydd yma: naill ai yr oedd y cynllun gwreiddiol gyda 22 o fyrddau iechyd yn iawn, ynteu mae'r cam a gymerir gan y Gweinidog yn awr yn iawn. Ni all y ddau fod yn iawn. Mae'r Gweinidog wedi bod yn ddigon gonest i gydnabod hynny. Mae'n gwybod, fel y gwn i, fod y cynigion a'r diwygiadau a gafwyd yn 2003, y dywedwyd wrthym y byddent yn parhau am ddegawd, yn draed moch, os nad yn siop siafins.

Yr oedd dau beth yn nodweddu dechrau'r ddadl hon: araith ardderchog Jonathan Morgan ac, yn naturiol, Jane Hutt yn dianc o leoliad y drosedd ar gychwyn y ddadl. Pan gyflwynodd y diwygiadau hyn, yr oedd ei bwriadau'n dda, yr oedd yn ymroddedig, ac yr oedd yn anghywir. Yr oedd y diwygiadau hyn yn afradlon, ac fe'i rhybuddiwyd dro ar ôl tro, ond cafodd ei dyrchafu, ei chefnogi a'i hannog gan ei phennaeth, y Prif Weinidog. Dyna lle yr oeddent ill dau, ar gefn eu ceffyl, Bonnie a Clyde gwleidyddol, yn gwthio'r cynigion hyn drwodd, er iddynt gael eu rhybuddio gan weithwyr proffesiynol a gwleidyddion eu bod yn anghywir, ac yn wir yr oeddent yn anghywir. Dywedodd Jane Hutt wrthym, Brif Weindog, a chithau'n ei chefnogi—[*Torri ar draws.*]

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Trefn: Os ydych am

you want to make an intervention, First Minister, please stand up and do so; if not, be quiet.

Nick Bourne: She said that it would be easier to understand. It is not; it is a Byzantine and unwieldy system. We were told that it would be less bureaucratic, but it is not; it has been more bureaucratic. We were told that it would be less costly, First Minister, but it was not cost-neutral; it was costly beyond our means. We were told repeatedly and, memorably by you, that it was unique to Wales. It was and it is, and we all know why.

Helen Mary Jones *rose—*

Nick Bourne: I understand that I have 30 seconds to allow for interventions, so please be quick.

Helen Mary Jones: Briefly, much of what are you have just said could be applied to the local government reorganisation of 1996. Will you apologise for that?

Nick Bourne: We have heard you say that you are in favour of more local authorities; you will have to speak to the Minister, who wants fewer. You seem to want more local health boards, while they want fewer. The two arms of the Government had better sort themselves out.

We have heard your usual wild and extravagant flight of fancy soaring off into the firmament and out of sight, so I will turn to the Lib Dems. Not surprisingly, I felt sorry for Jenny Randerson. It was like watching a barrister who had been given the brief for a client caught at the scene of a crime, with hundreds of bystanders who saw him do it. Jenny has the misfortune of being the health spokesperson, and therefore of having to defend the indefensible, given that she and her party were part of the coalition at the time and must have supported these changes. Their unqualified support for them should have made the Labour Party suspicious from the start; it would have made me suspicious, I must say.

ymyrryd, Brif Weinidog, a fyddechystal â sefyll; os nad ydych, byddwch yn ddistaw.

Nick Bourne: Dywedodd y byddai'n haws ei ddeall. Nid ydyw'n haws ei ddeall; trefn Fysantaidd ac anhyllaw ydyw. Dywedwyd wrthym y byddai'n llai biwrocraidd, ond nid ydyw; mae wedi bod yn fwy biwrocraidd. Dywedwyd wrthym y byddai'n llai costus, Brif Weinidog, ond nid oedd yn niwtral o ran cost; yr oedd yn fwy costus nag y gallem ei fforddio. Cofiw'n ichi ddweud wrthym droeon ei bod yn unigryw i Gymru. Yr oedd yn unigryw ac y mae'n unigryw, a gwyddom i gyd pam.

Helen Mary Jones *a gododd—*

Nick Bourne: Deallaf fod gennyf 30 eiliad ar gyfer ymyriadau, felly, byddwch yn gyflym os gwelwch yn dda.

Helen Mary Jones: Yn gryno, gellid priodoli llawer o'r hyn yr ydych newydd ei ddweud i ad-drefnu llywodraeth leol yn 1996. A wnewch chi ymddiheuro am hynny?

Nick Bourne: Yr ydym wedi'ch clywed yn dweud eich bod o blaid mwy o awdurdodau lleol; bydd yn rhaid ichi siarad â'r Gweinidog, sydd am gael llai. I bob golwg, yr ydych chi am gael mwy o fyrddau iechyd lleol, a hwythau am gael llai. Byddai'n well i ddwy fraich y Llywodraeth gael trefn arnynt eu hunain.

Clywsom eich dychmygion gwyllt ac afrad arferol wrth i chi hedfan i'r ffurfafen ac o'r golwg, felly, trof at y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol. Nid oedd yn syndod fy mod yn teimlo trueni dros Jenny Randerson. Yr oedd fel gwylio bargyfreithiwr a oedd wedi cael y briff ar gyfer cleient a ddaliwyd yn troseddu yn y fan a'r lle, a channoedd o dystion wrth law wedi'i weld wrthi. Anffawd Jenny yw mai hi yw'r llefarydd iechyd, ac felly rhaid iddi amddiffyn yr hyn nad oes modd ei amddiffyn, o gofio'i bod hi a'i phlaid yn rhan o'r glymblaid ar y pryd a'u bod o reidrwydd wedi cefnogi'r newidiadau hyn. Dylai eu cefnogaeth ddiamod i'r newidiadau fod wedi codi amheon ymhlith y Blaid Lafur o'r cychwyn; byddai wedi fy ngwneud i'n amheus, rhaid imi ddweud.

Let us be honest. This much is clear: Labour and the Lib Dems got it seriously wrong. Therefore, let us say that, as an Assembly. We owe it to the Welsh public to acknowledge what you, the First Minister and the then Minister for health, lauded and trumpeted as a great achievement—a ‘great success and innovation’—has been a humiliating, inept and inane failure. Let us acknowledge that, and move on with some of the sensible reforms that you now propose.

Gadewch inni fod yn onest. Mae cymaint â hyn yn glir: yr oedd Llafur a'r Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol yn hollol anghywir. Felly, gadewch inni ddweud hynny, fel Cynulliad. Mae gennym ddyletswydd i'r cyhoedd yng Nghymru i gydnabod bod yr hyn a gafodd ei glodfori a'i ganmol i'r cymylau gennych chi, y Prif Weindog a'r Gweinidog dros iechyd ar y pryd, a'i alw'n—'llwyddiant mawr ac yn arloesi'—wedi bod yn fethiant gwaradwyddus, aneffeithiol a hurt. Gadewch inni gydnabod hynny, a symud ymlaen gyda rhai o'r diwygiadau synhwyrol yr ydych yn eu cynnig yn awr.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: The proposal is to agree amendment 1. Does any Member object? I see that there is an objection, so we will defer the voting to voting time.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Y cynnig yw cytuno gwelliant 1. A oes unrhyw Aelod yn gwrthwynebu? Gwelaf fod gwrthwynebiad, felly, gohiriwn y bleidlais tan yr amser pleidleisio.

*Gohiriwyd y pleidleisiau tan 5 p.m.
Votes deferred until 5 p.m.*

Dadl y Ceidwadwyr Cymreig Welsh Conservatives Debate

Ymddygiad Gwrthgymdeithasol yng Nghymru Anti-social Behaviour in Wales

The Deputy Presiding Officer: I have selected amendments 1, 2 and 3 in the name of Kirsty Williams.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Yr wyf wedi dethol gwelliannau 1, 2 a 3 yn enw Kirsty Williams.

Mark Isherwood: I propose that

Mark Isherwood: Cynigiaf fod

the National Assembly for Wales recognises the need to take action on the causes and effects of anti social behaviour in Wales. (NDM3910)

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru yn cydnabod bod angen cymryd camau ynghylch achosion ac effeithiau ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol yng Nghymru. (NDM3910)

I am pleased to propose this motion, calling on the National Assembly to recognise the need to take action on the causes and effects of anti-social behaviour. We will support the first two amendments, but, while we recognise that boredom can be a contributory factor to bad behaviour, and we recognise the need for increased facilities for young people, we cannot support amendment 3, because it could be interpreted as being offensive to young people.

Mae'n bleser gennyf gynnig y cynnig hwn, gan alw ar y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol i gydnabod bod angen gweithredu ynglŷn ag achosion ac effeithiau ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol. Byddwn yn cefnogi'r ddau welliant cyntaf, ond er ein bod yn cydnabod y gall diflastod fod yn ffactor sy'n cyfrannu at ymddygiad gwael, a'n bod yn cydnabod bod angen mwy o gyfleusterau i bobl ifanc, ni allwn gefnogi gwelliant 3, oherwydd gellid dehongli ei fod yn sarhad ar bobl ifanc.

We recognise that police community support officers have a role to play in tackling anti-social behaviour, but we also recognise the role that local warden resource centres can play in building community confidence, in reducing crime and the fear of crime, and in improving the safety of the elderly and the vulnerable.

Anti-social behaviour damages the lives of many, and it often leaves older and more vulnerable people living in fear. The answer lies in tackling the causes and not just in treating the symptoms of it, which can grab the headlines. Addressing anti-social behaviour is not just about confronting gangs of youths on street corners, nor is it just about shutting down the shops and pubs that sell alcohol to the under-18s; we must understand the problem before we tackle it. We need to be tough on offenders while understanding the causes of their behaviour and offering them a second chance.

Governments in Westminster and Cardiff can legislate to discourage anti-social behaviour, but that alone is not enough. We need to encourage parents, neighbours, businesses, teachers and everyone with a role in society to take responsibility for bringing up children by teaching them to behave properly and to keep their communities in order. We must put trust in families and support them, community organisations and social enterprises. The Social Justice Policy Group's report, 'Breakthrough Britain: Ending the costs of social breakdown', details proposals for social justice. It was delivered to the Conservative Party, but it was also welcomed by members of all parties. It identified a direct link between broken homes and the educational underachievement, emotional instability and social disengagement that can lead to crime and unacceptable behaviour. A fundamental challenge for our society is therefore to help families to stay together.

We need to encourage a change in culture. Tackling the symptoms of anti-social behaviour alone is simply not working.

Cydnabyddwn fod gan swyddogion cymorth cymunedol rôl yn y gwaith o fynd i'r afael ag ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol, ond cydnabyddwn hefyd y rôl y gall canolfannau adnoddau wardeniaid lleol ei chwarae wrth feithrin hyder cymuned, lleihau troseddu ac ofn troseddu, ac o ran gwella diogelwch yr henoed a phobl sy'n agored i niwed.

Mae ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol yn niweidio bywyd llawer o bobl, ac mae'n aml yn achosi bod pobl hŷn a phobl sy'n fwy agored i niwed yn byw mewn ofn. Yr ateb yw mynd i'r afael â'r achosion, nid delio â'i symptomau'n unig, sef y pethau sy'n aml yn cael y sylw. Mae mynd i'r afael ag ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol yn golygu gwneud mwy na herio gangiau o bobl ifanc ar gorneli strydoedd, a chau'r siopau a'r tafarnau sy'n gwerthu alcohol i bobl dan 18 oed; rhaid inni ddeall y broblem cyn inni fynd i'r afael â hi. Mae angen inni ddelio'n llym â throseddwyd, ac ar yr un pryd ddeall yr achosion sy'n gwneud iddynt ymddwyn felly, a chynnig ail gyfle iddynt.

Gall llywodraethau San Steffan a Chaerdydd ddeddfu i geisio atal ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol, ond nid yw hynny'n unig yn ddigon. Mae angen inni annog rhieni, cymdogion, busnesau, athrawon a phawb sydd â rôl yn y gymdeithas i ysgwyddo'r cyfrifoldeb dros fagu plant drwy eu haddysgu i ymddwyn yn iawn a thrwy gadw trefn ar eu cymunedau. Rhaid inni ymddiried mewn teuluoedd a'u cefnogi, mewn cymdeithasau yn y gymuned ac mewn mentrau cymdeithasol. Mae adroddiad y Grŵp Polisi Cyfiawnder Cymdeithasol, 'Breakthrough Britain: Ending the costs of social breakdown', yn cynnwys cynigion manwl ar gyfer cyfiawnder cymdeithasol. Fe'i cyflwynwyd i'r Blaid Geidwadol, ond fe'i croesawyd hefyd gan aelodau o bob plaid. Yr oedd yn nodi cysylltiad uniongyrchol rhwng cartrefi sydd wedi chwalu a thangyflawni addysgol, ansefydlogrwydd emosiynol a'r ymddieithrio cymdeithasol a all arwain at droseddu ac ymddygiad annerbyniol. Her sylfaenol i'n cymdeithas ni, felly, yw cynorthwyo teuluoedd i aros gyda'i gilydd.

Mae angen inni annog newid mewn diwylliant. Nid yw mynd i'r afael â symptomau ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol, a

According to the British Crime Survey, levels of anti-social behaviour have increased since its launch. From an overall low in 2003-04, perceptions of all measures of anti-social behaviour have increased, with the biggest increase seen in the perceptions of people being drunk or rowdy. In his recent analysis of the anti-social behaviour order, one chief superintendent noted that, as a serving police officer, he had made considerable use of ASBOs, and what struck him was not only that they were breached regularly, but that they did not appear to be controlling the behaviour of those subject to them.

The Youth Justice Board has voiced concerns that ASBOs risk being a badge of honour to which other young people might aspire. The Centre for Crime and Justice Studies notes that the UK Government's flagship ASBO policy is looking increasingly discredited as a mainstream response.

Leanne Wood: I support much of what you say about anti-social behaviour orders. Do you agree with me that they should be abolished?

3.00 p.m.

Mark Isherwood: My personal view is that they need to be replaced with something far more effective, which tackles causes as well as symptoms and which is sustainable, rather than simply being a box ticked.

As I said, the Centre for Crime and Justice Studies notes that the UK Government's flagship policy is looking increasingly discredited. In its rush to distance itself from the ASBO, the UK Government has now latched onto the acceptable behaviour contract as its new favoured intervention to address anti-social behaviour, with new targets for acceptable behaviour contracts. However, the National Audit Office in England found that these non-legally binding agreements had a limited effect on people aged under 18, with 60 per cent displaying further anti-social behaviour.

hynny'n unig, yn gweithio. Ers lansio Arolwg Troseddau Prydain, mae lefelau ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol wedi cynyddu. Yr oedd y ffigur ar ei isaf yn 2003-04, ac ers hynny, o safbwynt canfyddiad pobl, mae ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol o bob math wedi bod ar gynnydd, a'r cynnydd mwyaf i'w weld yn y canfyddiad bod pobl yn feddw neu'n stwrlyd. Wrth ddadansoddi'r gorchymyn ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol yn ddiweddar, dywedodd un prif uwcharolygydd ei fod wedi defnyddio ASBOs yn helaeth, yn rhinwedd ei swydd gyda'r heddlu, a'r hyn a'i tarawodd oedd nid yn unig eu bod yn cael eu torri'n rheolaidd, ond nad oeddent i bob golwg yn rheoli ymddygiad y sawl a oedd yn destun y gorchmynion.

Mae'r Bwrdd Cyfiawnder Ieuenctid wedi mynegi pryder fod perygl i ASBOs ddod yn fathodyn anrhydedd y gallai pobl ifanc eraill geisio'i efelychu. Dywed y Ganolfan Astudiaethau Troseddu a Chyfiawnder hefyd fod polisi blaenllaw Llywodraeth y DU i ddefnyddio ASBOs fel ymateb prif ffrwd yn prysur golli parch.

Leanne Wood: Yr wyf yn cefnogi llawer o'r hyn a ddywedwch am orchmynion ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol. A gytunwch â mi y dylid eu dileu?

Mark Isherwood: Fy marn bersonol yw bod angen cael rhywbeth llawer mwy effeithiol yn eu lle, sy'n mynd i'r afael ag achosion yn ogystal â symptomau ac sy'n gynaliadwy, yn hytrach na bod yn ddim ond tic mewn blwch.

Fel y dywedais, mae'r Ganolfan Astudiaethau Troseddu a Chyfiawnder yn sylwi bod polisi blaengar Llywodraeth y DU mewn anfri cynyddol i bob golwg. Yn ei rhuthr i ymbellhau oddi wrth yr ASBO, mae Llywodraeth y DU wedi cydio yn y contract ymddygiad derbynol fel ei hoff ymyriad i fynd i'r afael ag ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol, gyda thargedau newydd ar gyfer contractau ymddygiad derbynol. Fodd bynnag, gwelodd y Swyddfa Archwilio Genedlaethol yn Lloegr, ar ôl ystyried y cytundebau hyn, nad oes ganddynt rym cyfreithiol, mai cyfyngedig oedd eu heffaith

ar bobl dan 18 oed, a 60 y cant yn arddangos ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol pellach.

Home Office figures show that the number of ASBOs issued in Wales increased year on year between 1999 to 2005, and that there has been an increase in the number of breaches. Between June 2000 and December 2005, 47 per cent of ASBOs in Wales were breached. This is a tragedy and a farce. In their desperation to avoid blame, Home Office Ministers have asserted that a breach of an ASBO is not a failure. If that is not a failure, I wonder what is.

For some young people, the threat of fines or ASBOs is not a particularly worrying danger. We must fight back against such attitudes with punishments and deterrents that work. First, we need to improve policing. As the Police Federation has stated, officers claim that forces are so driven by Home Office targets that they are forced to manipulate the figures to fit the crime. We have stories of children being slapped with a penalty notice for throwing buns at a bus because it counts as a sanctioned detection, and enables a force to hit its targets.

Over 95 per cent of criminal cases are heard by magistrates. However, magistrates only have the power to send offenders to prison for a maximum of 13 weeks. If they want to impose a longer sentence, they have to refer the case to the Crown court. We believe that, in order to tackle serious crime and anti-social behaviour in their communities, magistrates need to have greater sanctions at their disposal.

However, in order to achieve this, our prisons need to be rescued. Our prisons are now officially full, and emergency measures have seen the early release of over 18,000 prisoners, including over 3,000 violent offenders. The prison system is not working. Half of all crime is committed by previous offenders, and one in five recorded crimes is committed by former prisoners. Some 65 per cent of prisoners reoffend within two years of release. Community and custodial sentences

Mae ffigurau'r Swyddfa Gartref yn dangos bod nifer yr ASBOs a osodwyd yng Nghymru wedi cynyddu flwyddyn ar ôl blwyddyn rhwng 1999 a 2005, a bod cynnydd yn nifer yr achosion o dorri amodau. Rhwng Mehefin 2000 a Rhagfyr 2005 cafodd 47 y cant o ASBOs yng Nghymru eu torri. Mae hyn yn drasiedi ac yn ffars. Yn eu hawydd enbyd i osgoi bai, mae Gweinidogion y Swyddfa Gartref wedi mynnu nad yw torri ASBO yn fethiant. Os nad yw hynny'n fethiant, ysgwn i beth sydd.

I rai pobl ifanc, nid yw bygwth dirwyon neu ASBOs yn berygl sy'n peri gofid neilltuol. Rhaid inni ymladd yn ôl yn erbyn agweddau o'r fath gyda chosbau ac ataliadau sy'n gweithio. Yn gyntaf, mae angen inni wella plismona. Fel y mae Ffederasiwn yr Heddlu wedi ei ddweud, mae swyddogion yn hawlio bod lluoedd dan y fath bwysau oherwydd targedau'r Swyddfa Gartref fel eu bod yn cael eu gorfodi i drin y ffigurau yn ôl y drosedd. Mae gennym storïau am blant yn cael hysbysiad cosb am daflu byns at fws oherwydd bod hynny'n cyfrif fel canfod trosedd ac yn galluogi heddlu i gyrraedd ei dargedau.

Caiff dros 95 y cant o achosion troseddol eu gwranddo gan ynadon. Fodd bynnag, mae gan ynadon y grym dim i anfon troseddwy'r i'r carchar am uchafswm o 13 wythnos yn unig. Os ydynt am osod dedfrydau hwy, rhaid iddynt gyfeirio'r achos i lys y Goron. Er mwyn i ynadon allu mynd i'r afael â throseddau difrifol ac ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol yn eu cymunedau, mae angen iddynt allu defnyddio mwy o sancsiynau.

Fodd bynnag, er mwyn gwneud hyn, mae angen achub ein carchardai. Mae ein carchardai yn awr yn llawn yn swyddogol, ac o ganlyniad i fesurau brys mae 18,000 o garcharorion wedi eu rhyddhau'n gynnar, gan gynnwys 3,000 o droseddwy'r treisgar. Nid yw'r system garchardai yn gweithio. Caiff hanner y cyfanswm o droseddau eu cyflawni gan gyn-droseddwy'r, a chyn-garcharorion sy'n cyflawni un rhan o bump o'r troseddau a gofnodir. Mae tua 65 y cant o garcharorion

should be based on four pillars—punishment, rehabilitation, work for offenders, and reparation for victims. All prisoners should have their release made conditional upon their willingness to take part in rehabilitation and on their behaviour and progress in custody, and should not be automatically released at the halfway mark.

There is no clear accountability for the rehabilitation of prisoners. Fundamental reform is required, based on the principles of decentralisation, accountability, greater use of the voluntary and private sectors, and payment by results. The system should never write anyone off. The system of second chance should offer rehabilitation to the man or woman who was addicted to drugs in their teens or twenties. We need a reliably funded third sector that can help to rehabilitate and build broken lives. We would enforce drug and alcohol rehabilitation requirements by contracting with private and third sector organisations to operate treatment programmes, and pay them by results.

We would introduce honesty in sentencing, so that courts set a minimum and a maximum period of incarceration. We would replace automatic release with earned release. We would make community sentencing tough and effective, with new sanctions, including the withdrawal of benefits, for those who do not attend. Offenders should compensate victims through a victims' fund. Those serving custodial sentences should pay into the fund through work in prison. Public sector prisons should become prison and rehabilitation trusts, with a single governor responsible for offenders after they are released, as well as when they are in prison. Social enterprises should be encouraged to expand prison industries, where inmates can do proper work, learn skills, and be paid. A future UK Conservative Government would scrap identity cards, and use the savings to build more prison places, to provide more drug and alcohol rehabilitation in prisons, and, of course, to create a new border police force.

yn aildroeddu ymhen dwy flynedd ar ôl eu rhyddhau. Dylai dedfrydau cymunedol a chaethiwed gael eu seilio ar bedair colofn—cosb, adsefydlu, gwaith i droseddwyr, a gwneud iawn i ddioddefwyr. Dylai rhyddhau carcharorion fod yn amodol ar eu parodrwydd i gymryd rhan mewn adsefydlu, ac ar eu hymddygiad a'u cynnydd yn y ddalfa, ac ni ddylid eu rhyddhau'n awtomatig hanner y ffordd.

Nid oes atebolrwydd eglur dros adsefydlu carcharorion. Mae angen diwygio sylfaenol, yn seiliedig ar egwyddorion datganoli, atebolrwydd, defnyddio'r sectorau gwirfoddol a phreifat yn ehangach, a thâl yn ôl canlyniadau. Ni ddylai'r system anobeithio ynghylch neb. Dylai system yr ail gyfle gynnig adsefydlu'r dyn neu'r fenyw a oedd yn gaeth i gyffuriau yn eu harddegau neu eu hugeiniau. Mae arnom angen trydydd sector yn cael ei ariannu mewn modd dibynadwy a fydd yn gallu helpu adsefydlu ac adeiladu bywydau toredig. Byddem yn gorfodi gofynion adsefydlu pobl a fu'n gaeth i gyffuriau neu alcohol drwy contractau gyda chyrrff trydydd sector i weithredu rhaglenni triniaeth, a'u talu yn ôl canlyniadau.

Byddem yn cyflwyno gonestrwydd wrth ddedfrydu, fel y bydd llysoedd yn gosod cyfnod carchar lleiaf a mwyaf. Byddem yn defnyddio rhyddhau wedi'i ennill yn lle rhyddhau'n awtomatig. Byddem yn gofalu bod dedfrydu cymunedol yn llym ac yn effeithiol, gyda sancsiynau newydd, gan gynnwys atal budd-daliadau, i'r rheini sy'n absennol. Dylai troseddwyr wneud iawn i ddioddefwyr drwy gronfa dioddefwyr. Dylai'r rheini sy'n cwblhau dedfrydau o garchar gyfrannu at y gronfa drwy weithio yn y carchar. Dylai carchardai'r sector cyhoeddus ddod yn ymddiriedolaethau carchar ac adsefydlu, gydag un llywodraethwr yn gyfrifol am droseddwyr ar ôl eu rhyddhau, yn ogystal â phan fyddant yn y carchar. Dylid annog mentrau cymdeithasol i ehangu diwydiannau carchar, lle gall carcharorion wneud gwaith priodol, dysgu sgiliau a chael eu talu. Byddai Llywodraeth Geidwadol y DU yn y dyfodol yn dileu cardiau adnabod, ac yn defnyddio'r arbedion i adeiladu mwy o leoedd carchar, i ddarparu yn y carchardai fwy o adsefydlu oherwydd cyffuriau ac alcohol, ac wrth gwrs i greu

heddlu newydd ar gyfer ffin y wlad.

Leanne Wood: I am interested to hear your complaint that the prison population is overcrowded. Your answer to that is to build more private prisons—is that correct?

Mark Isherwood: No, it is to build more prisons—the supplier would depend on who won the contract, which would be the organisation offering the best outcome, not in terms of bricks and mortar, but in rehabilitation, delivery and re-settlement after prisoners are released. Whether the organisation is from the public, private, or voluntary sector does not matter to me. I am outcome-focused; dogma does not trap my approach to delivery.

Leanne Wood: Mae'n ddiddorol gennyf glywed eich cwyn fod poblogaeth y carchardai yn orlawn. Eich ateb i hynny yw adeiladu mwy o garchardai preifat—a yw hynny'n gywir?

Mark Isherwood: Nac ydyw; adeiladu mwy o garchardai yw'r ateb—byddai'r cyflenwr yn dibynnu ar pwy a enillodd y contract, pa gorff fyddai'n cynnig y canlyniadau gorau, nid o ran brics a mortar, ond mewn adsefydlu, cyflawni ac ailsefydlu ar ôl i garcharorion gael eu rhyddhau. Nid yw o bwys gennyf a yw'r corff yn dod o'r sector cyhoeddus, preifat neu wirfoddol. Yr wyf fi'n canolbwyntio ar ganlyniadau; nid yw dogma yn maglu fy agwedd at gyflawni.

We must also focus on the provision of youth custody and prison places in Wales that are accessible to all parts of Wales. Action on anti-social behaviour is required in deed as well as word—in practical, social action involving the public, private, and voluntary sectors. Labour said that it would be tough on crime and on the causes of crime. However, it has failed on both counts because it has put spin before substance and the political message before the practical measures that are so urgently required and long overdue.

Rhaid inni ganolbwyntio hefyd ar ddarparu cyfleusterau caethiwo pobl ifanc a lleoedd carchar yng Nghymru sy'n hwylus i bob rhan o Gymru. Rhaid gweithredu yn erbyn ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol yn ymarferol yn ogystal ag mewn gair—drwy weithredu cymdeithasol, ymarferol gan gynnwys y sectorau cyhoeddus, preifat a gwirfoddol. Dywedodd Llafur y byddai'n delio'n llym â throesdu ac ag achosion troseddu. Fodd bynnag, mae wedi methu ar y ddau gyfrif oherwydd ei bod wedi rhoi sbin o flaen sylwedd ac wedi rhoi'r neges wleidyddol o flaen y mesurau ymarferol y mae eu hangen ar frys ac sy'n hwyr iawn yn dod.

Peter Black: I propose the following amendments in the name of Kirsty Williams. Amendment 1: add new point at end of motion:

condemns the Home Office's decision to cease funding for the successful 101 service.

Amendment 2: add a new point at the end of the motion:

believes that police community support officers can play an integral part in tackling anti-social behaviour, and calls on the Welsh Assembly Government to look at ways of providing financial support to those areas that are most in need of additional PCSOs.

Peter Black: Cynigïaf y gwelliannau canlynol yn enw Kirsty Williams. Gwelliant 1: ychwanegu pwynt newydd ar ddiwedd y cynnig.

yn condemnio penderfyniad y Swyddfa Gartref i roi'r gorau i gyllido'r gwasanaeth 101 llwyddiannus.

Gwelliant 2: ychwanegu pwynt newydd ar ddiwedd y cynnig.

yn credu bod swyddogion cymorth cymunedol yr heddlu'n gallu chwarae rhan gyfannol o ran mynd i'r afael ag ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol, ac yn galw ar Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru i edrych ar ffyrdd o ddarparu cefnogaeth ariannol i'r ardaloedd hynny y mae angen swyddogion

cymorth cymunedol yr heddlu ychwanegol arnynt fwyaf.

Amendment 3: add a new point at the end of the motion:

believes that many young people are driven to anti-social behaviour through boredom and calls on the Welsh Assembly Government to investigate ways of working with local authorities to increase facilities for young people.

In proposing these amendments, I am grateful for the opportunity to set out the argument for my Member proposed Measure before I even get to present it to the Assembly, because one of the objectives of that Measure is to place a duty on local authorities to make provision for young people in their communities to try to engage them constructively rather than seeking to penalise them. That is what I will be proposing when I seek leave from the Assembly to bring that Measure forward. I hope that my proposal will be allowed to progress accordingly.

It is interesting that we are having this debate on anti-social behaviour at this time. The Conservatives have obviously taken note of the fact that Labour has been majoring in precisely this topic as its single point of interest, if you like, in the local government elections. There has been a series of roadshows in which the First Minister has trailed around Wales criticising various councils for not doing things right and claiming that Labour has the answer to everything, despite the fact that Labour has been in Government for 10 years and has had responsibility in Westminster for precisely those law-and-order issues that we are talking about here, in terms of anti-social behaviour legislation, the number of police officers that we see on our streets, and in terms of the powers that are available to the Assembly and to local councils to deal with anti-social behaviour. Despite Labour's raft of legislation—the vast majority of which my party has supported—we still have issues with anti-social behaviour in communities, and we still have people coming to us to voice complaints about crime, nuisance, noise, vandalism, the theft of cars, drugs, and a range of other issues. No matter how strong

Gwelliant 3: ychwanegu pwynt newydd ar ddiwedd y cynnig.

yn credu mai diflastod sy'n gyrru nifer o bobl ifanc i ymddwyn yn wrthgymdeithasol ac yn galw ar Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru i ymchwilio i fffyrdd o weithio gydag awdurdodau lleol i gynyddu'r cyfleusterau sydd ar gael i bobl ifanc.

Wrth gynnig y gwelliannau hyn, yr wyf yn ddiolchgar am y cyfle i amlinellu'r ddadl o blaid fy Mesur a gynigir gan Aelod cyn imi hyd yn oed ei gyflwyno i'r Cynulliad, oherwydd un o amcanion y Mesur hwnnw yw gosod dyletswydd ar awdurdodau lleol i ddarparu ar gyfer pobl ifanc yn eu cymunedau i geisio'u cynnwys yn adeiladol yn hytrach na cheisio'u cosbi. Dyna y byddaf yn ei gynnig pan geisïaf ganiatâd y Cynulliad i gyflwyno'r Mesur hwnnw. Gobeithio y caniateir i'm cynnig ddatblygu felly.

Mae'n ddiddorol ein bod yn cael y ddadl hon ar ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol ar yr adeg hon. Mae'n amlwg fod y Ceidwadwyr wedi sylwi ar y ffaith fod Llafur wedi rhoi'r sylw pennaf i'r union bwnc hwn fel ei hunig bwynt o ddiddordeb, os mynnwch, yn yr etholiadau llywodraeth leol. Cafwyd cyfres o sioeau teithiol lle bu'r Prif Weinidog yn ymlwybro o gwmpas Cymru yn beirniadu gwahanol gynghorau am beidio â gwneud pethau'n iawn, ac yn honni bod gan Lafur yr ateb i bopeth, er bod Llafur mewn Llywodraeth am 10 mlynedd ac wedi cael cyfrifoldeb yn San Steffan am yr union faterion cyfraith-a-threfn hynny yr ydym yn siarad amdanynt yma, o ran deddfwriaeth ar ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol, nifer y swyddogion heddlu a welwn ar ein strydoedd, ac o ran y pwerau sydd ar gael i'r Cynulliad ac i gynghorau lleol i ddelio ag ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol. Er gwaethaf yr holl deddfwriaeth gan Lafur—a chefnogwyd y mwyafrif llethol gan fy mhlaid i—mae gennym broblemau o hyd gydag ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol mewn cymunedau, a daw pobl atom o hyd i leisio cwynion am drosedd, niwsans, sŵn, fandaliaeth, lladrata o geir, cyffuriau, ac amrywaith o faterion

the rhetoric from the First Minister and the Ministers who have trailed with him around Wales, we are still in that situation.

Therefore, it is clear at the beginning of this debate that legislation, although important, is not the sole answer to dealing with this issue. You have to treat people as human beings and ensure that the resources are available in communities in the form of proper policing; you need to ensure that you are engaging with people to try to find the root causes of misbehaviour and anti-social behaviour. You need to ensure that you are making proper provision so that, where young people are causing a nuisance because they are bored or have nothing better to do, there is provision to try to engage them and give them something other to do than hanging around on street corners where they cause a problem.

We have to take the rhetoric that we have heard on this issue with a very large pinch of salt. However, we also have to recognise that some of this legislation has made an impact and that there has been some progress in terms of improvement in crime statistics and anti-social behaviour. Consistently across Wales, irrespective of which party is running the local council or who is involved in the various crime safety partnerships, councils are working together more effectively to deliver what needs to be delivered. That applies to the Liberal-Democrat-led councils, which the First Minister has been quick to criticise, just as much as it does to Labour-led councils, and even those run by the Conservatives—I think that there is only one of those, in Monmouth. Much work is being done to deal with this particular issue.

3.10 p.m.

There are also problems, and we have to recognise that we need to do much more. However, that does not justify the criticism that has been made of Liberal-Democrat-led councils. I will just run through some of the things that those councils have done that have been particularly effective. In Cardiff, the council has supported the 101 service, which has proven to have an impact not only in

eraill. Ni waeth pa mor gryf yw'r rhethreg gan y Prif Weinidog a'r Gweinidogion sydd wedi ymlwybro gydag ef o gwmpas Cymru, yr ydym yn dan yn y sefyllfa honno.

Felly, mae'n eglur ar ddechrau'r ddadl hon nad deddfu, er mor bwysig, yw'r unig ateb i ddelio â'r mater hwn. Rhaid ichi drin pobl fel bodau dynol a sicrhau bod yr adnoddau ar gael mewn cymunedau ar ffurf plismona priodol; rhaid ichi sicrhau eich bod yn ymgysylltu â phobl i geisio dod o hyd i'r achosion sydd wrth wraidd camymddwyn ac ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol. Rhaid ichi sicrhau eich bod yn darparu'n briodol er mwyn gofalu, pan fydd pobl ifanc yn achosi niwsans oherwydd eu bod wedi syrffedu neu heb ddim byd gwell i'w wneud, fod yna ddarpariaeth i geisio'u cynnwys a rhoi iddynt rywbeth arall i'w wneud yn lle segura ar gorneli strydoedd lle maent yn peri problem.

Rhaid inni gymryd y rhethreg a glywsom ar y mater hwn gyda phinsiad mawr iawn o halen. Fodd bynnag, rhaid inni gydnabod hefyd fod rhywfaint o'r ddeddfwriaeth hon wedi cael effaith a bod rhywfaint o gynnydd wedi'i wneud o ran gwella ystadegau troseddau ac ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol. Yn gyson ar draws Cymru, ni waeth pa blaid sy'n rhedeg y cyngor lleol na phwy sy'n cael eu cynnwys yn y gwahanol bartneriaethau diogelwch cymunedol, mae cynghorau'n cydweithio'n fwy effeithiol i gyflawni'r hyn y mae angen ei gyflawni. Mae hynny'n berthnasol i'r cynghorau a arweinir gan y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol, a'r Prif Weinidog wedi bod mor barod, lawn cymaint ag i'r cynghorau a arweinir gan Lafur, a hyd yn oed y rhai a arweinir gan y Ceidwadwyr—credaf mai un ohonynt yn unig sydd, ym Mynwy. Mae llawer o waith yn cael ei wneud i ddelio â'r mater neilltuol hwn.

Mae yna broblemau hefyd, a rhaid inni gydnabod bod angen inni wneud llawer mwy. Fodd bynnag, nid yw hynny'n cyfiawnhau'r feirniadaeth a wnaed o gynghorau sy'n cael eu harwain gan Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol. Af drwy rai o'r pethau y mae'r cynghorau hynny wedi'u gwneud sydd wedi bod yn arbennig o effeithiol. Yng Nghaerdydd, mae'r cyngor wedi cefnogi'r gwasanaeth 101,

reducing low-level nuisance, but in getting police officers back on the street. Wrexham has spent money on police community support officers and got more police on the street. The Minister for Finance and Public Service Delivery, back in February, praised the City and County of Swansea Council for its good partnership work. Much good work is being done, but we need to do more and that is why we need this provision for young people and why we need to reinvest in the 101 service and get that back up and running across the whole of Wales. I believe that it will make a huge difference. However, my colleague, Jenny Randerson, will deal with that in more detail.

Brynle Williams: It is all too easy to blame young people for anti-social behaviour, but, only this week, I visited one of the north Wales police area commanders and we talked about the problem of illegal off-road motorcycling, which is also a problem in south Wales. You might ask what that has to do with anti-social behaviour, but that is all too easy to answer: it tears up our environment. However, the crux of the matter is that these young people have nowhere to go. There is a whole industry of motorcyclists. Young people need to get out, and I find it sad that local authorities, councils and so on seem to criticise young people instead of helping them.

Some landowners are willing to diversify to provide young people with appropriate facilities, but that requires planning regulations to be relaxed in certain suitable locations—I emphasise that it would be in suitable locations only—under strict circumstances. If more local authorities were willing to identify and meet the genuine needs of many young people, this sort of anti-social behaviour, which we experience throughout Wales, would be addressed. We could have a legitimate outlet for this, which would build on Wales's reputation and, more importantly, would address the needs of young people. We need to give them facilities and somewhere to go. It is too easy to say that we already provide them with leisure centres and so on, but not everyone wants those.

a gafodd effaith nid yn unig ar leihau niwsans lefel isel, ond ar gael swyddogion heddlu yn ôl ar y stryd. Yn ôl ym mis Chwefror, canmolwyd Cyngor Dinas a Sir Abertawe gan y Gweinidog dros Gyllid a Chyflenwi Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus am ei waith partneriaeth da. Gwneir llawer o waith da, ond mae angen inni wneud rhagor, a dyna pam y mae arnom angen y ddarpariaeth hon ar gyfer pobl ifanc, a pham y mae angen inni ail-fuddsoddi yn y gwasanaeth 101 a sicrhau bod hwnnw'n cael ei draed dano eto ar draws Cymru gyfan. Credaf y bydd yn gwneud gwahaniaeth enfawr. Fodd bynnag, bydd fy nghyd-Aelod, Jenny Randerson, yn delio â hynny'n fanylach.

Brynle Williams: Rhy hawdd o lawer yw beio pobl ifanc am ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol, ond yr wythnos hon ymwelais â chomander ardal yn heddlu gogledd Cymru, a buom yn sôn am broblem reidio beiciau modur yn anghyfreithlon, sy'n broblem yn ne Cymru hefyd. Gallech ofyn beth sydd a wnelo hynny ag ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol, ond mae hynny'n hawdd iawn ei ateb: mae'n darnio ein hamgylchedd. Fodd bynnag, craidd y mater yw nad oes gan y bobl ifanc hyn unman i fynd. Mae yna ddiwydiant cyfan o feicwyr modur. Mae angen i bobl ifanc fynd allan, a pheth trist i mi yw bod awdurdodau lleol, cynghorau ac yn y blaen yn beirniadu pobl ifanc yn hytrach na'u helpu.

Mae rhai tîrfeddianwyr yn fodlon arallgyfeirio er mwyn rhoi cyfleusterau priodol i bobl ifanc, ond i wneud hynny mae angen llacio rheoliadau cynllunio mewn rhai lleoliadau addas—pwysleisiaf mai mewn lleoliadau addas yn unig fyddai hynny—dan amodau caeth. Petai mwy o awdurdodau lleol yn fodlon nodi anghenion dilys llawer o bobl ifanc a diwallu'r anghenion hynny, gellid mynd i'r afael ag ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol o'r math hwn sy'n boen i ni ar hyd a lled Cymru. Gallem gael mynegiant cyfreithlon i hyn, a fyddai'n adeiladu ar enw da Cymru ac, yn bwysicach, yn mynd i'r afael ag anghenion pobl ifanc. Mae angen inni roi cyfleusterau iddynt a rhywle i fynd. Rhy hawdd yw dweud ein bod eisoes yn rhoi iddynt ganolfannau hamdden ac yn y blaen, ond nid oes ar bawb eisiau'r rheini.

Lesley Griffiths: I was surprised to see the Liberal Democrats' amendments to this Conservative motion. I would have thought that on anti-social behaviour, more than any other policy area, they would elect to stay well clear of providing us on this side of the Chamber with the opportunity to expose just how uncommitted they have been to tackling anti-social behaviour at the UK and local levels in those local authorities that they claim to lead.

When the Labour Government presented its anti-social behaviour measures in Westminster, the Liberal Democrats voted against all the main measures of the Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003. Yet, looking at their amendments today, they claim to have all the answers. At a local level, Liberal Democrat policy is no different; Liberal-Democrat-controlled councils have failed, time after time, to take action on the ground to get a grip on anti-social behaviour in their respective areas.

In Wrexham, for example, the Liberal-Democrat-led administration voted, in October 2006, to scrap the excellent neighbourhood warden scheme to combat vandalism, youth nuisance and abandoned vehicles in the Wrexham area. So, based on this litany of failures both at local and UK-wide levels—

Eleanor Burnham: I think that it is slightly disingenuous—I could use a stronger word, but I had better not—to make such an assertion. You know that you are wrong because, in fact, that administration increased the funding for PCSOs, who offer more appropriate possibilities. Wardens could do nothing. Our leader, Aled Roberts, should know about these things because he is a solicitor. As a former magistrate, I have a little understanding of the difference between PCSOs, who are effective, and wardens, who are not effective.

Lesley Griffiths: You are being very

Lesley Griffiths: Fe'm synnwyd o weld gwelliannau'r Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol i'r cynnig hwn gan y Ceidwadwyr. Ynglŷn ag ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol, yn anad unrhyw faes polisi arall, byddwn wedi meddwl y byddent yn dewis cadw'n hollol glir rhag rhoi cyfle inni ar yr ochr hon i'r Siambr ddatgelu mor wan fu eu hymrwymiad i fynd i'r afael ag ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol ar lefel y DU a lefel leol yn y cynghorau lleol hynny yr honnant eu bod yn eu harwain.

Pan gyflwynodd y Llywodraeth Lafur ei mesurau ar ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol yn San Steffan, pleidleisiodd y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol yn erbyn pob un o brif fesurau Deddf Ymddygiad Gwrthgymdeithasol 2003. Eto, o edrych ar eu gwelliannau heddiw, honnant fod yr holl atebion ganddynt. Ar lefel leol, nid yw polisi'r Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol yn wahanol; mae cynghorau a reolir gan Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol dro ar ôl tro wedi methu gweithredu ar lawr gwlad i fynd i'r afael ag ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol yn eu hardaloedd priodol.

Yn Wrecsam, er enghraifft, yn Hydref 2006, pleidleisiodd y weinyddiaeth a arweinir gan y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol i ddileu'r cynllun wardeniaid ardal ardderchog a oedd yn brwydro yn erbyn fandaliaeth ac yn delio â phobl ifanc sy'n achosi niwsans a cherbydau wedi'u gadael yn ardal Wrecsam. Felly, ar sail y litani o fethiannau ar lefel leol a lefel y DU gyfan—

Eleanor Burnham: Credaf ei bod fymryn yn ffuantus—gallwn ddefnyddio gair cryfach, ond gwell imi beidio—ichi wneud honiad o'r fath. Gwyddoch eich bod yn anghywir oherwydd, mewn gwirionedd, cynyddodd y weinyddiaeth honno y gyllideb ar gyfer Swyddogion Cymorth Cymunedol yr Heddlu, sy'n cynnig posibiliadau mwy priodol. Ni allai wardeniaid wneud dim. Dylai ein harweinydd, Aled Roberts, wybod y pethau hyn oherwydd mae'n dwrnai. Fel cyn-ynad, mae gennyf ychydig ddealltwriaeth o'r gwahaniaeth rhwng Swyddogion Cymorth Cymunedol yr Heddlu, sy'n effeithiol, a wardeiniaid, nad ydynt yn effeithiol.

Lesley Griffiths: Mae eich agwedd at

disingenuous to neighbourhood wardens. The PCSOs were partly funded by the council and partly funded by the Home Office, so it was Labour money that was going in to provide them.

I now turn to amendment 3 tabled by the Liberal Democrats, on the reasons why so many young people are driven to anti-social behaviour. Again, Liberal-Democrat-run local authorities are found wanting on their commitment to delivering decent core services to young people, services that would discourage them from participating in anti-social behaviour in the first place. In Wrexham, the local Liberal Democrats who run the council rejected the previous Labour-led administration's plans to invest £125,000 in improvements to youth service facilities, and they are now reaping the results of not going ahead with that investment.

Eleanor Burnham: Will you take an intervention?

Lesley Griffiths: No, I will not. *[Interruption.]*

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Order. Eleanor Burnham, please sit down

Lesley Griffiths: Estyn slammed Wrexham council's role in providing poor value for money in youth support services and for its inability to make decisions. It was also criticised for lack of action on improving shortcomings in services that were identified as far back as 2003. Therefore, by any measure, its a bit rich for the Liberal Democrats to be moving amendments here today that are calling on others to take action, when their own record on anti-social behaviour is so poor.

I will end with a example of precisely why the Liberal Democrats are way off-beam when it comes to understanding what young people need and how they can avoid becoming involved in anti-social behaviour. Given that he is 40 years of age, one could be

wardeiniaid cymdogaeth yn hynod o ffuantus. Cafodd swyddogion cymorth cymunedol yr heddlu eu hariannu'n rhannol gan y cyngor ac yn rhannol gan y Swyddfa Gartref, felly, arian y Blaid Lafur a oedd i'w ddefnyddio i'w darparu.

Trof yn awr at welliant 3 a gyflwynwyd gan y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol ac sy'n cyfeirio at y rhesymau pam y mae cynifer o bobl ifanc yn cael eu gyrru i ymddwyn yn wrthgymdeithasol. Unwaith eto, nid yw awdurdodau lleol sydd dan reolaeth y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol wedi gwireddu eu hymrwymiad i ddarparu gwasanaethau craidd digonol i bobl ifanc—gwasanaethau a fyddai'n eu hannog i beidio ag ymddwyn yn wrthgymdeithasol yn y lle cyntaf. Yn Wrecsam, gwrthododd y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol lleol sy'n rhedeg y cyngor gynlluniau'r weinyddiaeth Lafur flaenorol i fuddsoddi £125,000 i wella adnoddau'r gwasanaeth ieuenctid, a bellach maent yn dioddef canlyniadau peidio â bwrw ymlaen â'r buddsoddiad hwnnw.

Eleanor Burnham: A gymerwch ymyriad?

Lesley Griffiths: Na wna. *[Torri ar draws.]*

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Trefn. Eisteddwch, os gwelwch yn dda, Eleanor Burnham.

Lesley Griffiths: Yr oedd Estyn yn feirniadol iawn o rôl cyngor Wrecsam am roi gwerth gwael am yr arian yn ei wasanaethau cefnogi pobl ifanc ac am fethu gwneud penderfyniadau. Fe'i beirniadwyd hefyd am beidio â gweithredu i wella diffygion mewn gwasanaethau y tynnwyd sylw atynt cyn belled yn ôl â 2003. Felly, ar unrhyw gyfrif, mae'n rhyfedd gweld bod y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol yn cynnig gwelliannau yma heddiw sy'n galw ar eraill i weithredu, a'u record hwythau ar ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol mor wael.

Yr wyf am gloi gydag enghraifft sy'n dangos yn union pam y mae'r Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol ymhell ohoni o ran deall anghenion pobl ifanc, a sut y gallant osgoi ymddwyn yn wrthgymdeithasol. O gofio'i fod yn 40 oed, gellid maddau i rywun am

forgiven for thinking that their new leader, Nick Clegg, would have more of a grasp on issues relating to young people in Wales and, indeed, elsewhere in the UK. You would be wrong to think that, because one of the first things that he did when he became leader of the Liberal Democrats in December was to appoint Roxy Music's legendary keyboard player, Brian Eno, as his principal adviser on youth issues. I looked up Brian Eno on Wikipedia before coming into the Chamber today and discovered that the Liberal Democrat leader's advisor on youth issues is in fact 60 years of age—that is just two years younger than Ming Campbell, your previous leader, who you threw overboard for being too long in the tooth. As they say in all the best television courtroom dramas, I rest my case.

Jenny Randerson: Point of order. I do not think that we allow ageist comments in the Chamber, do we, Deputy Presiding Officer? I find that last comment utterly appalling, because it denigrates those who happen to be 60 or 62 years of age. I would have hoped that my Labour colleague knew better.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Order. We are not supposed to use discriminatory language, but that is only when it is against another Member. I do not think, in this case, that it is right to have a point of order. You may disagree with what Lesley said but, in this case, the language was okay.

Nick Ramsay: The detrimental consequences of anti-social behaviour are affecting communities across Wales and the UK. I am pleased that this motion has been tabled as it will send a clear message that the Chamber will not tolerate the behaviour of a few blighting the enjoyment of the many.

Regrettably, anti-social behaviour is becoming more prevalent across the country. I could quote many statistics, but the figure that encapsulates the position most patently is that in the British Crime Survey, which states that a staggering 2,993,000 offences of vandalism were committed against private property in 2006-07—that is just under 3

gredu y byddai gan eu harweinydd newydd, Nick Clegg, well amgyffred o'r problemau'n ymwneud â phobl ifanc yng Nghymru ac, yn wir, mewn mannau eraill yn y DU. Byddech yn anghywir i feddwl hynny, oherwydd un o'r pethau cyntaf a wnaeth pan ddaeth yn arweinydd y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol ym mis Rhagfyr oedd penodi chwaraewr allweddellau enwog Roxy Music, sef Brian Eno, yn brif ymgynghorydd iddo ar faterion ieuenctid. Darllenais y nodyn am Brian Eno ar Wikipedia cyn dod i'r Siambr heddiw, a gwelais fod y gŵr sy'n cynghori arweinydd y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol ar faterion ieuenctid mewn gwirionedd yn 60 oed—dwy flynedd yn unig yn iau na Ming Campbell, eich arweinydd blaenorol y cawsoch wared arno am ei fod yn rhy hen. Fel y dywedant yn yr holl ddramâu llys gorau ar y teledu, dyna gloi fy nadl.

Jenny Randerson: Pwynt o drefn. Onid yw'n wir, Ddirprwy Lywydd, nad ydym yn caniatáu sylwadau yn y Siambr sy'n gwahaniaethu ar sail oed? Credaf fod y sylw olaf hwnnw yn gwbl warthus, oherwydd mae'n difrio'r rheini sy'n digwydd bod yn 60 neu'n 62 oed. Byddwn wedi gobeithio bod fy nghyd-Aelod Llafur yn gwybod yn well.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Trefn. Nid ydym i ddefnyddio iaith wahaniaethol, ond dim ond pan wneir hynny yn erbyn Aelod arall. Ni chredaf, yn yr achos hwn, ei bod yn addas cael pwynt o drefn. Efallai eich bod yn anghytuno â'r hyn a ddywedodd Lesley, ond yn yr achos hwn yr oedd yr iaith yn iawn.

Nick Ramsay: Mae canlyniadau niweidiol ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol yn effeithio ar gymunedau ledled Cymru a'r DU. Yr wyf yn falch fod y cynnig hwn wedi ei gyflwyno, oherwydd bydd yn cyfleu neges glir na fydd y Siambr yn dioddef ymddygiad ychydig unigolion sy'n amharu ar fwynhad y mwyafrif.

Yn anffodus, mae ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol yn dod yn fwyfwy cyffredin ledled y wlad. Gallwn ddyfynnu ystadegau lawer, ond y ffigur sy'n crynhoi'r sefyllfa'n fwyaf eglur yw hwnnw yn Arolwg Troseddu Prydain, sy'n dweud bod nifer syfrdanol o droseddau fandaliaeth yn erbyn eiddo personol, sef 2,993,000, wedi'u

million, which is a huge figure.

Anti-social behaviour of this kind is what many people across Wales find themselves falling victim to increasingly, and the time has come for the Assembly Government to tackle the causes and the effects of such behaviour on our local communities. It is very important that we have the mechanisms in place to address not just the symptoms, but also the causes, as Mark Isherwood said. It is not acceptable that Britain, according to the United Nations Children's Fund, has the loneliest, the unhappiest and, as a result, the worst-behaved youngsters in the rich world. It is not acceptable that we live in a society in which 45 per cent of 14-year-old boys drink alcohol on a weekly basis, or that the consumption of alcohol within that age group has doubled in the past 15 years. It is not acceptable that we live in a society in which the street price of heroin has dropped by 45 per cent and the street price of cocaine has dropped by 22 per cent. We must consider all these causes of anti-social behaviour before we can truly address how we tackle it.

I will mention the role of local councils in this regard. The crime safety partnerships have been mentioned. They work very well, but we all know that local authorities are stretched and do not have the funding that they would like to have to meet all sorts of statutory obligations, which means that leisure centres, museums and other things that might keep young people occupied and give them a different focus are often not there, because the funding is not there.

3.20 p.m.

The role of local communities is often overlooked when discussing this issue. Yes, we can legislate, but we can only legislate so far. It is for us to provide a positive example and to show local communities what they can do for themselves to eradicate crime. I am pleased that my constituency, Monmouthshire, has one of the lower rates of anti-social behaviour, but even the rates there are far too high. The good results in Monmouthshire have been achieved by

cyflawni yn 2006-07—mymryn yn is na 3 miliwn, sy'n ffigur anferth.

Mae llawer o bobl ledled Cymru yn gweld eu bod yn dioddef fwyfwy yn sgil ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol o'r fath, a daeth yn bryd i Lywodraeth y Cynulliad fynd i'r afael ag achosion ac effeithiau ymddygiad o'r fath ar ein cymunedau lleol. Mae'n bwysig iawn fod gennym y mecanweithiau ar waith i ymdrin nid yn unig â'r symptomau ond hefyd â'r achosion, fel y dywedodd Mark Isherwood. Nid yw'n dderbyniol fod gan Brydain, yn ôl Cronfa Blant y Cenhedloedd Unedig, y plant mwyaf unig ac anhapus ac, o ganlyniad, y rhai sy'n ymddwyn waethaf yn y byd cyfoethog. Nid yw'n dderbyniol ein bod yn byw mewn cymdeithas lle mae 45 y cant o fechgyn 14 oed yn yfed alcohol bob wythnos, neu bod cyfanswm yr alcohol a yfir yn y grŵp oedran hwnnw wedi dyblu yn y 15 mlynedd diwethaf. Nid yw'n dderbyniol ein bod yn byw mewn cymdeithas lle mae pris heroin ar y stryd wedi gostwng 45 y cant a phris cocên ar y stryd wedi gostwng 22 y cant. Rhaid inni ystyried yr holl bethau hyn sy'n achosi ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol cyn y gallwn ymdrin o ddifrif â'r ffordd yr ydym am fynd i'r afael ag ef.

Soniaf am rôl cyngorau lleol yn hyn. Soniwyd eisoes am y partneriaethau diogelwch cymunedol. Maent yn gweithio'n dda iawn, ond gwyddom i gyd fod awdurdodau lleol dan bwysau ac nad oes ganddynt y cyllid yr hoffent ei gael i fodloni pob math o ymrwymadau statudol. Mae hynny'n golygu nad yw canolfannau hamdden, amgueddfeydd a phethau eraill a allai ddiddanu pobl ifanc a rhoi canolbwynt gwahanol iddynt ar gael yn aml, a hynny oherwydd nad oes cyllid.

Bydd rôl cymunedau lleol yn aml yn cael ei hanwybyddu wrth drafod y mater hwn. Mae'n wir ein bod yn gallu deddfu, ond dim ond i ryw raddau y gallwn ddeddfu. Ein dyletswydd ni yw gosod esiampl gadarnhaol a dangos i gymunedau lleol beth y gallant hwy eu hunain ei wneud i ddileu troseddu. Yr wyf yn falch fod gan fy etholaeth i sir Fynwy un o'r cyfraddau ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol isaf, ond mae'r cyfraddau yno, hyd yn oed, lawer yn rhy uchel. Mae'r

police, teachers, local councillors, parents, residents, businesspeople and a whole range of people from the local community all working together. We must foster and encourage partnerships between these parties if we are to tackle this issue. If we can combine national and local initiatives in the efforts to build relationships between all parties, the way ahead will be much clearer.

We have gone some way to tackling the causes and limiting the effects of anti-social behaviour. Anti-social behaviour orders have played a part in that—they may not be perfect, but they have gone some way to addressing a problem that is increasing across the country and which is increasingly becoming an issue in my postbag, as I am sure is the case with other Members.

I will support the motion; we owe it to the people of Wales to take real action to deal with this issue.

Jenny Randerson: I will depart from what I had planned to say in order to comment on the increasing desperation of Labour's tone. One would think that they had woken up to the fact that the Liberal Democrats are not only going to hang on to their four councils, but also greatly increase their representation across Wales.

I realise that canvassing for the Labour Party is a sad and desperate business at the moment, but your tone is ludicrous. There is another message that people need to note, given Lesley Griffiths's contribution: pensioners watch out, because the Labour Party is about. Labour believes that your views do not count once you reach the magic pension age; you are of no value, you cannot comment on young people—

Lesley Griffiths: Will you take an intervention?

Jenny Randerson: No, Lesley, I will not take an intervention. I think that the best that

canlyniadau da a gafwyd yn sir Fynwy wedi'u cyflawni gan yr heddlu, athrawon, cynghorwyr lleol, rhieni, trigolion, pobl fusnes ac amrywiaeth eang o bobl o'r gymuned leol i gyd yn gweithio gyda'i gilydd. Rhaid inni feithrin ac annog partneriaethau rhwng y bobl hyn os ydym i fynd i'r afael â'r mater hwn. Os gallwn gyfuno mentrau cenedlaethol a lleol yn yr ymdrechion i greu perthynas rhwng pawb, bydd y ffordd ymlaen lawer yn fwy eglur.

Yr ydym wedi gwneud cryn gynnydd wrth fynd i'r afael ag achosion ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol a chyfyngu effeithiau'r ymddygiad hwnnw. Mae gorchmynion ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol wedi cyfrannu at hynny—efallai nad ydynt yn berffaith, ond maent wedi cael rhywfaint o effaith wrth fynd i'r afael â phroblem sydd ar gynnydd ledled y wlad ac sy'n dod yn fater mwyfwy amlwg yn y llythyrau yr wyf fi, ac Aelodau eraill mae'n siŵr, yn eu cael.

Byddaf yn cefnogi'r cynnig; er mwyn pobl Cymru, dylem gymryd camau gwirioneddol i ddelio â'r mater hwn.

Jenny Randerson: Yr wyf am adael yr hyn yr oeddwn wedi bwriadu ei ddweud er mwyn gwneud ambell sylw am y tinc o anobaith a glywn fwyfwy yng ngeiriau Llafur. Gallech gredu eu bod newydd sylweddoli bod y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol nid yn unig am ddal gafael ar eu pedwar cyngor, ond hefyd am gynyddu eu cynrychiolaeth yn sylweddol ledled Cymru.

Sylweddolaf fod canfasio i'r Blaid Lafur yn waith trist ac anobeithiol ar hyn o bryd, ond mae'r tinc yn eich geiriau yn chwerthinllyd. Mae angen i bobl roi sylw i neges arall yn sgil cyfraniad Lesley Griffiths: byddwch yn ofalus, bensynwyr, oherwydd mae'r Blaid Lafur o gwmpas. Mae Llafur yn credu nad yw eich barn yn cyfrif wedi ichi gyrraedd oed cael pensiwn; nid ydych o ddim gwerth, ni allwch wneud sylwadau am bobl ifanc—

Lesley Griffiths: A gymerwch ymyriad?

Jenny Randerson: Na wnaf, Lesley, ni chymeraf ymyriad. Credaf mai'r peth gorau

you can do is to sit there and compose your—
[*Interruption.*]

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Order. Your microphone has been turned off. There is no need for you to shout. Will you take an intervention from Jeff Cuthbert?

Jeff Cuthbert: Is that why your party got rid of your previous leader Ming Campbell?

Jenny Randerson: I can assure you that our party did not get rid of our previous leader Ming Campbell because of his age. It is a good thing that the First Minister was not here; it might have passed you by, Lesley, but the First Minister is even older than Ming Campbell.

I will comment briefly on the excellent record of the Liberal Democrats in Cardiff and Wrexham. In Cardiff, we have managed to retain the astonishingly successful 101 service, which receives 500 calls a day and which has allowed 25 police officers to be redeployed to community duty as a result of the reduction in the number of 999 calls. There has been a 40 per cent reduction in the number of 999 calls, a 500 per cent increase in referrals to the council's noise nuisance team and a six-day reduction in the time taken to remove abandoned cars, over the record of the previous Labour local authority. That is an astonishing record of success. The Labour-controlled Home Office pulled the plug on the 101 service, the Assembly Government would not consider helping to fund it, and it was left to the Liberal Democrats in the local authority and to the police to deal with that financial mess and to retain that service.

In Wrexham, the considerable increase in the budget for funding PCSOs has led to a 33 per cent reduction in crime in the borough. That is the real record of the Liberal Democrats in local authorities, which has been done while, at the same time, delivering the lowest average increase in council tax across Wales.

Leanne Wood: I will start Plaid Cymru's

ichi ei wneud yw eistedd acw ac ymdawelu—
[*Torri ar draws.*]

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Trefn. Mae eich meicroffon wedi'i ddiffodd. Nid oes angen ichi weiddi. A gymerwch ymyriad gan Jeff Cuthbert?

Jeff Cuthbert: Ai dyna pam y cafodd eich plaid wared â'ch arweinydd blaenorol, Ming Campbell?

Jenny Randerson: Gallaf eich sicrhau na chafodd ein plaid wared â'n harweinydd blaenorol, Ming Campbell, oherwydd ei oed. Mae'n ffodus nad oedd y Prif Weinidog yma; efallai nad oeddech yn gwybod hyn, Lesley, ond mae'r Prif Weinidog yn hŷn hyd yn oed na Ming Campbell.

Soniaf yn fyr am record wych y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol yng Nghaerdydd a Wrecsam. Yng Nghaerdydd, yr ydym wedi llwyddo i gadw'r gwasanaeth 101 rhyfeddol o lwyddiannus, sy'n cael 500 o alwadau bob dydd ac sydd wedi galluogi symud 25 o heddweision i wneud gwaith yn y gymuned oherwydd y gostyngiad yn nifer y galwadau 999. Bu gostyngiad o 40 y cant yn nifer y galwadau 999, cynnydd o 500 y cant yn nifer yr achosion a gyfeirir at dîm niwsans sŵn y cyngor, a gostyngiad o chwe diwrnod yn yr amser a gymer i symud ceir sydd wedi'u gadael, o'i gymharu â record yr awdurdod lleol Llafur blaenorol. Mae honno'n record ryfeddol o lwyddiannus. Dan reolaeth Llafur, cafodd y Swyddfa Gartref wared ar y gwasanaeth 101. Nid oedd Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn fodlon ystyried helpu ei ariannu, a gadawyd y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol yn yr awdurdod lleol a'r heddlu i ymdrin â'r llanast ariannol hwnnw ac adfer y gwasanaeth hwnnw.

Yn Wrecsam, mae'r cynnydd sylweddol yn y gyllideb ar gyfer ariannu swyddogion cymorth cymunedol yr heddlu wedi arwain at ostyngiad o 33 y cant mewn troseddu yn y fwrdeistref. Dyna yw gwir record y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol mewn awdurdodau lleol, ac ar yr un pryd maent hefyd wedi sicrhau'r cynnydd cyfartalog isaf yn y dreth gyngor ledled Cymru.

Leanne Wood: Cychwynnaf gyfraniad Plaid

contribution to this debate by giving some context. 'Anti-social behaviour' is a newly invented term. We did not have any anti-social behaviour before 1997. When New Labour was preparing to annihilate the Tories in the 1997 general election, its focus groups said that crime and disorder were the people's greatest concerns. It was easy to get a headline by sounding tough on crime, and the term 'anti-social behaviour' was invented. However, where has that approach got us?

The UK now has the highest rate of imprisonment among all western European countries, with record numbers of children being locked up; two thirds of prisoners go on to re-offend; and our number of crime victims is 30 per cent higher than the European average. At the same time, levels of suicide, self-harm, substance misuse and mental disorders are high among the UK prison population. New Labour has adopted a shamelessly populist approach to crime and, today, the Tories show that, depressingly, there has been no fresh thinking on this issue in more than a decade. The Tories' answer to the UK's prison overcrowding problem, which is 10 times greater than in a comparable country like Spain, is to open more private prisons.

Alun Cairns: I am surprised to hear such a comment from Leanne Wood, who is usually well informed on such issues. Would she not support the statements made by the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales that said that David Cameron has made headway in this area of policy, particularly focusing on special needs? Many of the young who are in prison have special educational needs that have not been picked up and those are the sort of people who need support. That is where the dreadful headline 'Hug a Hoodie' came from. He was recognised by the youth justice board for his positive efforts and policies in this area.

Leanne Wood: I would agree that young people in the criminal justice system need help and support, but that is a contradictory

Cymru i'r ddadl hon drwy roi ychydig gydestun. Mae 'ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol' yn derm newydd. Nid oedd gennym ddim ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol cyn 1997. Pan oedd Llafur Newydd yn paratoi i ddinistrio'r Torïaid yn etholiad cyffredinol 1997, yr oedd ei grwpiau ffocws yn dweud mai troseddu ac anhrefn oedd yn peri'r pryder mwyaf i bobl. Yr oedd yn hawdd bachu pennawd drwy swnio'n llym ar droseddu, a bathwyd y term 'ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol'. Ond a fu'r dull hwnnw o weithredu yn llwyddiannus mewn gwirionedd?

Bellach mae gan y DU y gyfradd garcharu uchaf ymhlith holl wledydd gorllewin Ewrop, a'r nifer uchaf erioed o blant yn cael eu rhoi dan glo; bydd dwy ran o dair o garcharorion yn aildroseddu; ac mae nifer y rheini sy'n dioddef oherwydd troseddau 30 y cant yn uwch na chyfartaledd Ewrop. Ar yr un pryd, mae lefelau hunanladdiad, hunan-niwed, camddefnyddio sylweddau ac anhwylderau meddyliol yn uchel ymhlith poblogaeth carchardai y DU. Mae agwedd Llafur Newydd at droseddu wedi bod yn warthus o boblyddol, a heddiw mae'r Torïaid yn dangos na fu dim syniadau newydd am y mater hwn ers degawd a mwy, sy'n dorcalonnus. Ateb y Torïaid i broblem gorboblogi yng ngharchardai y DU, sydd 10 gwaith yn fwy nag mewn gwlad debyg megis Sbaen, yw agor rhagor o garchardai preifat.

Alun Cairns: Yr wyf yn synnu clywed sylw o'r fath gan Leanne Wood, sydd fel rheol yn hyddysg mewn materion o'r fath. Oni fyddai'n cefnogi'r datganiadau a wnaed gan Fwrdd Cyfiawnder Ieuenctid Cymru a Lloegr, a ddywedodd fod David Cameron wedi gwneud cynnydd yn y maes polisi hwn, yn enwedig wrth ganolbwyntio ar anghenion arbennig? Mae gan lawer o'r bobl ifanc sydd dan glo anghenion addysgol arbennig sydd heb eu nodi, a dyna'r union bobl y mae arnynt angen cefnogaeth. O'r fan honno y daeth y pennawd erchyll 'Hug a Hoodie'. Cafodd ei gydnabod gan y bwrdd cyfiawnder ieuenctid am ei ymdrechion a'i bolisiâu cadarnhaol yn y maes hwn.

Leanne Wood: Byddwn yn cytuno bod ar bobl ifanc yn y system cyfiawnder troseddol angen cymorth a chefnogaeth, ond mae'r

position to one of building more prisons, which would mean locking up more children and young people.

Successive UK Governments have treated the symptoms, not the causes, of crime. Plaid Cymru's view is that responsibility over all areas of criminal justice should be devolved to Wales. We would like to see an alternative criminal justice strategy that would prioritise tackling the causes of crime and reducing the fear of crime. We would invest heavily in community-based penalties and we would consider the Finnish model as a template for a new Welsh youth justice system. There are hardly any children locked up in Finland because concerns over young people's mental health needs have completely eclipsed any popular demand to be tough on young law-breakers.

We need to see a revolution in substance use policy and we need to be educating children and intervening at a much younger age to reduce crime and substance use. What is clear is that current thinking on crime is not working: crime is actually reducing while the prison population is exploding. I look forward to the day when this institution becomes a real parliament, with powers over criminal justice, so that we can join countries like Finland, the Netherlands and others, which have moved away from a headline-grabbing punitive approach towards an effective crime-reduction system that actually works.

I will leave Members with one thought. All of us have done things that would, today, be considered as 'anti-social behaviour'. I would challenge any of you to say that you have not. Some of this behaviour is a natural part of growing up—things that people grow out of—and I hope that politicians will remember that when debating the issue in the future.

Jeff Cuthbert: I will begin my short contribution by commending the Assembly police scheme, which all Assembly Members should be encouraged to take up. On the issue

safiad hwnnw'n anghyson â'r syniad o godi rhagor o garchardai, a fyddai'n golygu rhoi rhagor o blant a phobl ifanc dan glo.

Mae'r naill Lywodraeth ar ôl y llall yn y DU wedi trin symptomau troseddu yn hytrach na'i achosion. Barn Plaid Cymru yw y dylid datganoli'r cyfrifoldeb dros holl feysydd cyfiawnder troseddol i Gymru. Byddem yn hoffi gweld strategaeth amgen ar gyfiawnder troseddol, a fyddai'n rhoi blaenoriaeth i fynd i'r afael ag achosion troseddu a gostwng lefelau ofn troseddu. Byddem yn buddsoddi'n sylweddol mewn cosbi yn y gymuned ac yn ystyried model y Ffindir fel patrwm ar gyfer system newydd o gyfiawnder ieuencid i Gymru. Ychydig iawn o blant a roddir dan glo yn y Ffindir, gan fod pryderon ynglŷn ag anghenion iechyd meddwl pobl ifanc wedi llwyr drechu unrhyw alwadau poblogaidd am gosbi troseddwy'r ifanc yn llym.

Mae angen in ni weld chwyldroi'r polisi ar ddefnyddio sylweddau, ac mae angen inni addysgu plant ac ymyrryd lawer yn iau er mwyn lleihau troseddu a defnyddio sylweddau. Mae'n amlwg nad yw'r ffordd o synied am droseddu ar hyn o bryd yn gweithio: mae lefelau troseddu yn gostwng ond mae poblogaeth carchardai'n ffrwydro. Edrychaf ymlaen at y diwrnod pan ddaw'r sefydliad hwn yn senedd go iawn, gyda phwerau ym maes cyfiawnder troseddol, er mwyn inni allu ymuno â gwledydd megis y Ffindir, yr Iseldiroedd ac eraill sydd wedi symud oddi wrth dull o gosbi sy'n denu'r penawdau at system effeithiol o leihau troseddu sy'n wirioneddol yn gweithio.

Hoffwn gloi gyda sylw i Aelodau gnoi cil arno. Mae pob un ohonom wedi gwneud pethau a fyddai, heddiw, yn cael eu hystyried yn 'ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol'. Byddwn yn herio unrhyw un ohonoch i ddweud nad ydych wedi gwneud rhywbeth o'r fath. Mae rhywfaint o'r ymddygiad hwn yn rhan naturiol o dyfu—pethau y bydd pobl yn cefnu arnynt wrth iddynt brifio—a gobeithio y bydd gwleidyddion yn cofio hynny wrth drafod y mater yn y dyfodol.

Jeff Cuthbert: Cychwynnaf fy nghyfraniad byr drwy ganmol cynllun heddlu'r Cynulliad: dylid annog holl Aelodau'r Cynulliad i fanteisio arno. O ran ymddygiad

of anti-social behaviour, when I took part in the scheme last year, I had the opportunity to be on the front line with the police, when attending incidents of what is broadly called anti-social behaviour. It was a valuable opportunity to see some of the immediate repercussions of the incidents and how the police and other support workers dealt with them on the spot. That was an eye-opener and I commend the scheme to everyone who has time to take part in it.

3.30 p.m.

On anti-social behaviour, which is what this debate is about, I have a lot of sympathy with the Conservative motion. We need to bear in mind the range of issues that we are talking about here. They extend from the potentially catastrophic attempt to derail a train near Llanbradach Station just a few months ago, which could have had absolutely horrendous consequences to—

Leanne Wood: Surely the example that you have given is a crime. There are laws under which people can be prosecuted for committing those offences. Why do you need to bring in anti-social behaviour orders?

Jeff Cuthbert: I do not think that I have mentioned anti-social behaviour orders so far. No doubt the young people who carried out that activity did not see it as a criminal act, but as some sort of perverse fun—they were messing about without appreciating the consequences of their actions rather than engaging consciously in criminal activity.

I am trying to outline what local communities can face in terms of what could be perceived as anti-social behaviour. It can go from an extreme example, such as that which I have just mentioned, to issues such as that which I mentioned yesterday during First Minister's questions, namely graffiti. On the face of it, graffiti seems to be a minor issue, but for those who must live with it on a daily basis, it is a serious issue. I am pleased that as a result of the partnerships and communities together process, youth offending teams are now engaged, under supervision, in clearing up

gwrthgymdeithasol, pan gymerais ran yn y cynllun y llynedd cefais gyfle i fod ar y rheng flaen gyda'r heddlu yn ymateb i ddigwyddiadau'n ymwneud â'r hyn a elwir yn gyffredinol yn ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol. Yr oedd yn gyfle gwerthfawr i weld rhai o sgil-ffeithiau uniongyrchol y digwyddiadau a sut yr ymdriniai'r heddlu a gweithwyr cymorth eraill â hwy yn y fan a'r lle. Yr oedd hynny'n agoriad llygad, a chymeradwyaf y cynllun i bawb sydd ag amser i gymryd rhan ynddo.

O ran ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol, sef testun y ddadl hon, yw wyf yn cydymdeimlo i raddau â chynnig y Ceidwadwyr. Mae angen inni gadw mewn cof yr amrywiaeth materion yr ydym yn sôn amdanynt yma. Maent yn ymestyn o'r ymgais i achosi i drên fynd oddi ar y cledrau ger Gorsaf Llanbradach ychydig fisoedd yn ôl, a allasai fod yn drychinebus gyda chanlyniadau erchyll iawn i—

Leanne Wood: Onid yw'r enghraifft yr ydych wedi sôn amdani yn drosedd? Mae yna gyfreithiau i erlyn pobl am gyflawni'r troseddau hynny. Pam mae angen ichi sôn am orchmynion ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol?

Jeff Cuthbert: Ni chredaf imi sôn am orchmynion ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol hyd yma. Mae'n siŵr nad oedd y bobl ifanc a gyflawnodd y weithred honno yn ei hystyried yn drosedd. Rhyw fath o hwyl gwrthnysig ydoedd iddynt—yr oeddent yn chwarae o gwmpas heb sylweddoli canlyniadau eu gweithredodd, yn hytrach na mynd ati'n fwiadol i gyflawni trosedd.

Yr wyf yn ceisio amlinellu'r hyn y gall cymunedau ei wynebu oherwydd yr hyn y gellid ei ystyried yn ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol. Gall amrywio o enghraifft eithafol, fel yr un yr wyf newydd sôn amdani, i faterion fel y rhai y soniais amdanynt ddoe yn ystod cwestiynau i'r Prif Weinidog, sef graffiti. Ar yr wyneb, ymddengys fod graffiti'n fater dibwys, ond i'r rhai sy'n gorfod byw gyda hyn o ddydd i ddydd, mae'n fater difrifol. Yr wyf yn falch, o ganlyniad i'r broses o bartneriaethau a chymunedau'n cydweithio, fod timau

the mess that they have caused, and will, hopefully, begin to realise, through that educative process, the effects of their actions and will think better of doing it again.

I mentioned the PACT process and that is one of the greatest steps forward in my area, in terms of the council, the local health board and local residents working together to address the principal causes of problems in the area and the police then regarding those problems as priorities. Several of the issues that come up and which I would call anti-social behaviour go way beyond what we have concentrated on so far, namely youth annoyance. This anti-social behaviour includes littering—which, in many communities, is the most serious form of anti-social behaviour, and is usually carried out by adults—and it certainly includes inconsiderate parking, speeding and neighbours from hell, who are, almost always, adults. We need to bear in mind that the majority of ASBOs are issued against adults, not young people. Therefore, it is wrong—and I am not suggesting that this is done deliberately—to focus our attention on young people.

To conclude, I have a great deal of sympathy with the Liberal Democrats' amendment 3, but I share the views that Mark advanced when he introduced this motion, because, as written—and it was probably not meant in this way—the amendment would appear to suggest that if anti-social behaviour is caused by boredom, we should accept that and consider ways of providing better opportunities. That is not the right approach, and it would not resonate well with communities that suffer from such activities. However, it is absolutely right that we need to ensure, through partnership and working together, that we develop quality youth clubs and youth associations. In addition—and I end on this plea—if those organisations are to succeed, whether they are voluntary or statutory youth clubs, it is critical that adults come forward to be trained as youth workers to provide that valuable service and an

troseddau ieuentid bellach yn glanhau, dan oruchwyliaeth, y llanastr y maent wedi'i achosi, a gobeithio y byddant yn dechrau sylweddoli, drwy'r broses addysgol honno, beth yw effaith eu gweithredoedd ac yn meddwl eilwaith cyn gwneud hynny eto.

Soniais am y broses Partneriaethau ar gyfer Gweithredu Cymunedol, ac mae hynny'n un o'r camau mwyaf ymlaen yn fy ardal i, o ran cael y cyngor, y bwrdd iechyd lleol a thrigolion lleol yn cydweithio i fynd i'r afael â phrif achosion problemau yn yr ardal, a'r heddlu wedyn yn ystyried y problemau hynny fel blaenoriaethau. Mae nifer o'r materion sy'n codi ac y byddwn yn eu galw'n ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol yn mynd ymhell y tu hwnt i'r hyn yr ydym wedi canolbwyntio arno hyd yma, sef ieuentid yn aflonyddu. Mae'r ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol hwn yn cynnwys taflu ysbwriel—sef mewn nifer o gymunedau y math mwyaf difrifol o ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol, ac sydd fel rheol yn cael ei achosi gan oedolion—ac yn sicr mae'n cynnwys parcio anystyriol, gyrru'n rhy gyflym a chymdogion annymunol sydd, bron bob tro, yn oedolion. Mae angen inni gofio bod y rhan fwyaf o orchmynion ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol yn cael eu rhoi i oedolion, nid i bobl ifanc. Felly, nid yw'n iawn—ac nid awgrymaf y gwneir hyn yn fwrriadol—inni hoelio ein sylw ar bobl ifanc.

I gloi, yr wyf yn cydymdeimlo'n fawr â gwelliant 3 gan y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol, ond yr wyf yn cyd-weld â barn Mark pan gyflwynodd y cynnig, oherwydd fel y mae—ac nid dyna'r bwriad yn fwy na thebyg—ymddengys fod y gwelliant yn awgrymu, os diflastod sydd wrth wraidd ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol, y dylem dderbyn hynny ac ystyried ffyrdd i ddarparu gwell cyfleoedd. Nid dyna'r dull cywir, ac ni fyddai'n cael ei groesawu gan gymunedau sy'n dioddef oherwydd gweithgareddau o'r fath. Fodd bynnag, mae'n hollol gywir fod angen inni sicrhau, drwy bartneriaeth a chydweithio, ein bod yn datblygu nifer y clybiau ieuentid a chymdeithasau ieuentid o safon. Yn ogystal—a gorffennaf gyda'r ble hon—er mwyn i'r sefydliadau hynny lwyddo, boed yn glybiau ieuentid gwirfoddol neu'n rhai statudol, mae'n hollbwysig i oedolion wirfoddoli i gael eu hyfforddi fel gweithwyr

educative and creative outlet for young people.

Bethan Jenkins: I echo much of what my colleague Leanne Wood said in relation to this agenda. The legal definition of anti-social behaviour is acting in a manner that causes, or is likely to cause, harassment, alarm or distress to one or more people. Given the way in which New Labour has implemented these anti-social behaviour orders, it should have its own anti-social behaviour order.

It is ironic that we are discussing ageism in this debate, because when we discuss anti-social behaviour orders and anti-social behaviour, it is usually associated with young people. That is one of the fundamental reasons why we must discuss the issue. Seventy-one per cent of newspaper articles on anti-social behaviour talk about the anti-social behaviour activities of young people, as opposed to mentioning other anti-social behaviour, such as littering, as was mentioned earlier. Therefore, there is a fundamental problem of the targeting of young people. We want to try to get young people off the streets and into facilities, but we are undermining the ability to do so by seeking to lock them up and give them anti-social behaviour orders at every turn. That has been done to such an extent that Ed Balls has suggested that he will continue the agenda by introducing baby ASBOs as part of his new education policy. That has something in common with the Liberal Democrats: Amy Kitcher, a former candidate for the Liberal Democrats, introduced the concept of having an ASBO plus. Therefore, there are problems with policies in this area.

We want to raise this issue as a party because it is part of the criminal justice system, as Leanne Wood mentioned earlier. Many people in the police force and the voluntary sector believe that the time is right for the

ieuenctid i ddarparu'r gwasanaeth gwerthfawr hwnnw a chyfle addysgol a chreadigol i bobl ifanc.

Bethan Jenkins: Adleisiaf lawer o'r hyn a ddywedodd fy nghyd-Aelod, Leanne Wood, yng nghyswllt yr agenda hon. Y diffiniad cyfreithiol o ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol yw ymddwyn mewn modd sy'n achosi, neu sy'n debygol o achosi, aflonyddwch, braw neu drallod i un neu fwy o bobl. O gofio'r ffordd y mae Llafur Newydd wedi rhoi'r gorchmynion ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol hyn ar waith, dylai gael ei gorchymyn ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol ei hun.

Mae'n eironig ein bod yn trafod rhagfarn ar sail oed yn y ddadl hon, oherwydd pan drafodwn orchmynion ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol ac ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol, bydd hynny fel rheol yn gysylltiedig â phobl ifanc. Dyna un o'r rhesymau hollbwysig pam y mae'n rhaid inni drafod y mater. Mae 71 y cant o erthyglau papurau newydd am ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol yn sôn am weithgareddau gwrthgymdeithasol gan bobl ifanc, yn hytrach nag ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol arall, megis taflu sbwriel, fel y soniwyd yn gynharach. Felly, mae yna broblem sylfaenol o ran targedu pobl ifanc. Yr ydym am gael pobl ifanc oddi ar y strydoedd ac i ddefnyddio cyfleusterau, ond yr ydym yn tanseilio eu gallu i wneud hynny drwy geisio'u eu rhoi dan glo a gosod gorchmynion ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol arnynt ar bob cyfle. Mae hynny wedi ei wneud i'r fath raddau nes bod Ed Balls wedi awgrymu y bydd yn parhau'r agenda drwy osod gorchmynion ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol ar fabanod fel rhan o'i bolisi addysg newydd. Mae tebygrwydd rhwng hynny a'r Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol: cyflwynodd Amy Kitcher, un o gyn ymgeiswyr y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol, y cysyniad o gael gorchmynion ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol i'r henoed. Felly, mae yna broblemau gyda pholisïau yn y maes hwn.

Yr ydym am godi'r mater hwn fel plaid oherwydd mae'n rhan o'r system cyfiawnder troseddol, fel y soniodd Leanne Wood yn gynharach. Cred llawer o bobl yn yr heddlu ac yn y sector gwirfoddol ei bod yn bryd

devolution of the criminal justice system. Whether you like him or not, Richard Brunstrom has said:

‘Devolution of the police seems to me now to be inevitable. There is... no logic to the current situation,’

and,

‘devolved policing worked perfectly well in Scotland and Northern Ireland.’

and that there is no reason why it should not also be devolved to Wales. That is in line with the fact that the fire authorities are under the National Assembly’s authority, and that we need to try to streamline services in the National Assembly to form cohesive strategies with regard to targeting crime, and not pander to New Labour’s right-wing agenda in the UK Parliament.

Therefore, I welcome the debate, but I take issue with the Liberal Democrat amendment that anti-social behaviour leads to boredom, because that is insulting to young people. We should be celebrating the wealth of young people that we have in Wales, as opposed to putting them down at every conceivable opportunity.

Eleanor Burnham: I agree with the last speaker. As someone who used to deal with 14 to 16 year olds who were under-achieving, many of whom were in difficulties with the law, and so on, I believe that we need to celebrate the youth of today far more. The rite of passage from childhood to adulthood is extremely complex in a society ridden with hindrances: drug taking, binge drinking, and so on. It is heartening when you come across a lovely group of youngsters, as I did the other day in the North East Wales Institute. Those youngsters are fit for our society: they are hard working, they pursue their education via day release from their work, they own their own cars, they do not go around ravaging their communities and they seem happy and content. We need to celebrate more of that.

The perception of crime does not always match the reality. The reality of crime is great

datganoli’r system cyfiawnder troseddol. Pa un a ydych yn hoff ohono ai peidio, dywedodd Richard Brunstrom:

Ymddengys i mi fod datganoli’r heddlu bellach yn anochel. Nid yw’r sefyllfa bresennol yn rhesymegol,

a

gweithiodd plismona wedi’i ddatganoli yn dda yn yr Alban ac yng Ngogledd Iwerddon.,

ac nad oes rheswm pam na ddylai gael ei ddatganoli i Gymru hefyd. Mae hynny’n cydfynd â’r ffaith fod yr awdurdodau tân dan awdurdod y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol, a bod angen inni geisio symleiddio gwasanaethau yn y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol i greu strategaethau cydlynus o ran targedu troseddau, a pheidio â phorthi agenda adain dde Llafur Newydd yn Llywodraeth y DU.

Felly, croesawaf y ddadl, ond anghytunaf â gwelliant y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol sy’n dweud bod ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol yn arwain at ddifflastod, oherwydd mae hynny’n sarhad ar bobl ifanc. Dylem fod yn dathlu’r cyfoeth o bobl ifanc sydd gennym yng Nghymru, yn hytrach na lladd arnynt ar bob cyfle psibl.

Eleanor Burnham: Cytunaf â’r siaradwr diwethaf. Fel rhywun a arferai ymdrin â phobl ifanc rhwng 14 a 16 oed a oedd yn tangyflawni, lawer ohonynt mewn trafferthion gyda’r gyfraith, ac ati, credaf fod angen inni ddathlu ein hieuenctid lawer yn fwy. Mae’r daith o fod yn blentyn i fod yn oedolyn yn gymhleth iawn mewn cymdeithas sy’n llawn rhwystrau: cymryd cyffuriau, goryfed, ac ati. Mae’n galonogol cyfarfod grŵp hyfryd o bobl ifanc, fel y gwneuthum y diwrnod o’r blaen yn Athrofa Gogledd Ddwyrain Cymru. Mae’r bobl ifanc hynny yn addas ar gyfer ein cymdeithas: maent yn gweithio’n galed, maent yn dilyn eu haddysg drwy gael diwrnod astudio o’u gwaith, maent yn berchen ar eu ceir eu hunain, nid ydynt yn mynd o gwmpas yn difrodi eu cymunedau, ac y maent i’w gweld yn hapus ac yn fodlon. Rhaid inni ddathlu mwy o hynny.

Nid yw’r canfyddiad o droseddu bob amser yn cyd-fynd â’r realiti. Mae realiti troseddu

in certain areas. I do not watch television often, but I watched a horrendous programme the other night about policing in certain areas. There was a heavy-duty police mob breaking into homes with drug-taking, and so on, and it was a sad reflection of our society.

I will not have a go at anyone in particular, but I was extremely disappointed with comments on ageism earlier.

Lesley Griffiths: Will you take an intervention?

Eleanor Burnham: No, thank you; I have had enough of listening to you today.

The comments on ageism were extremely disappointing, and I will not even stoop to speak about them. All I will say is that ageism should not be applied to anyone in society, including our youth, and whatever political party we belong to and whatever we think of youth, we should do our best to support young people.

I am lucky to chair a small charity called Making Tracks, which deals with youth who have gone off the rails—hence the pun and the euphemism of ‘making tracks’—and works to get them back on track. I am heartened by the work that the partnerships, the youth offending teams, the police, the transport police, the probation service, and so on do. There is much good work to be celebrated out there but, in a complex society such as ours, rehabilitation and reparation should be much higher on the agenda than giving people anti-social behaviour orders and putting them in prison.

3.40 p.m.

Surely, prevention is better than cure. I am a parent—but certainly not a perfect parent—and I believe that parenting is extremely complex. We need to help people. A lot of evidence shows that you need to get in there to help people at an early stage. I know that the Labour Party has done good work on this, so I will not have a go at it, but we need to show people the consequences of their actions. There is something wrong with our

yn sylweddol mewn rhai ardaloedd. Ni fyddaf yn gwylio'r teledu'n aml, ond gwelais raglen erchyll y noson o'r blaen am blismona mewn rhai ardaloedd. Yr oedd criw cryf o heddlu yn torri i mewn i gartrefi lle yr oedd pobl yn cymryd cyffuriau, ac ati, ac yr oedd yn adlewyrchiad trist o'n cymdeithas.

Nid wyf am ladd ar neb yn benodol, ond yr oeddwn yn siomedig iawn â'r sylwadau am ragfarn oed yn gynharach.

Lesley Griffiths: A gymerwch chi ymyriad?

Eleanor Burnham: Dim diolch; yr wyf wedi cael digon o wrando arnoch chi heddiw.

Yr oedd y sylwadau am ragfarn oed yn siomedig iawn, ac nid wyf am iselhau fy hun i siarad amdanynt. Y cyfan a ddywedaf yw na ddylid defnyddio rhagfarn oed yn erbyn neb mewn cymdeithas, gan gynnwys ein hieuenctid, a pha bynnag blaid wleidyddol yr ydym yn aelod ohoni a beth bynnag yw ein barn am ieuenctid, dylem wneud ein gorau i gefnogi pobl ifanc.

Yr wyf yn ffodus o fod yn gadeirydd elusen fach o'r enw Making Tracks, sy'n ymdrin ag ieuenctid sydd wedi mynd ar gyfeiliorn ac yn gweithio i'w rhoi yn ôl ar y llwybr cywir—o hynny y daw'r enw ‘making tracks’. Mae'r gwaith a wna'r partneriaethau, y timau troseddau ieuenctid, yr heddlu, yr heddlu trafniadaeth, y gwasanaeth prawf, ac ati yn galonogol. Mae llawer o waith da i'w ddathlu, ond mewn cymdeithas gymhleth fel ein cymdeithas ni, dylai adsefydlu a gwneud iawn fod lawer yn uwch ar yr agenda na gosod gorchmynion ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol ar bobl a'u carcharu.

Gwell rhwystro'r clwy na'i wella. Yr wyf yn rhiant—ond yn sicr nid wyf yn rhiant perffaith—a chredaf fod rhianta yn beth cymhleth iawn. Mae angen inni helpu pobl. Mae llawer o dystiolaeth yn dangos bod angen ichi helpu pobl yn gynnar. Gwn fod y Blaid Lafur wedi gwneud gwaith da ar hyn, felly nid wyf am ladd arni, ond mae angen inni ddangos i bobl beth yw canlyniadau eu gweithredoedd. Mae rhywbeth o'i le ar

society when you read in the paper that a 17-year-old somewhere in the United Kingdom has put two fingers up to the establishment because he has been a man from hell in his community. Again, as a former magistrate—and I am sorry to bore you about this—I do not believe that the law is not particularly well suited to tackling some of these complex underlying issues. We should do much more to help with examining the causes and taking them away. There must be so many academics tearing their hair out because politicians do not put into effect their suggestions to deal with what they know is wrong with society. Let us try to do it together. I know that this is a pre-election period, but let us get away from this issue of ageism, do our best for our youth and get rid of this anti-social behaviour at whatever level it appears in our society.

The Minister for Social Justice and Local Government (Brian Gibbons): The Welsh Assembly Government is committed to tackling anti-social behaviour. Significant progress has been made since crime peaked in the mid 1990s. The statistics show that crime has fallen by 42 per cent, and the latest recorded crime figures show that overall crime levels and anti-social behaviour remain stable in Wales.

It is important that we acknowledge the progress that is being made as, often, the impression given is that this matter is spiralling exponentially out of control and that nothing is being done or achieved. We are now more or less back to the levels of crime and anti-social behaviour inherited by the incoming Conservative Government of 1979. That legacy, which was squandered over the next 18 years, was too high then and we are not happy with it now. We need to see further improvement.

We know that too many communities continue to suffer unacceptable levels of anti-social behaviour by people of all ages. We know that the one factor that many people in Wales feel would make a difference to the

gymdeithas pan ddarllenwch yn y papur fod person ifanc 17 oed rywle yn y Deyrnas Unedig wedi codi dau fys ar y sefydliad am ei fod wedi bod yn ddyn annymunol yn ei gymuned. Unwaith eto, fel cyn ynad—ac ymddiheuraf am eich diflasu â hyn—ni chredaf fod y gyfraith yn addas iawn ar gyfer mynd i'r afael â rhai o'r materion cymhleth sylfaenol hyn. Dylem wneud llawer mwy i helpu edrych ar yr achosion a'u diddymu. Mae'n rhaid bod llu o ysgolheigion yn tynnu gwallt eu pen am nad yw gwleidyddion yn rhoi eu hawgrymiadau ar waith i ymdrin â'r hyn y gwyddant sydd o'i le ar gymdeithas. Beth am inni geisio gwneud hynny gyda'n gilydd? Gwn fod hwn yn gyfnod sy'n arwain at etholiad, ond gadewch inni symud oddi wrth fater rhagfarn ar sail oed a gwneud ein gorau glas dros ein hieuenctid a chael gwared â'r ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol hwn waeth ar ba lefel y mae i'w weld yn ein cymdeithas.

Y Gweinidog dros Gyfiawnder Cymdeithasol a Llywodraeth Leol (Brian Gibbons): Mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru wedi ymrwymo i fynd i'r afael ag ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol. Gwnaethpwyd cynnydd sylweddol ers lefel uchaf troseddu ganol y 1990au. Dengys yr ystadegau fod gostyngiad o 42 y cant mewn troseddu, a dengys y ffigurau troseddu diweddaraf fod lefelau troseddu cyffredinol ac ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol wedi aros yn sefydlog yng Nghymru.

Mae'n bwysig inni gydnabod y cynnydd a wneir, oherwydd yr argraff a roddir yn aml yw bod y mater hwn yn mynd allan o reolaeth yn gyflymach ac yn gyflymach ac nad oes dim yn cael ei wneud na'i gyflawni. Erbyn hyn mae troseddau ac ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol fwy neu lai yn ôl i'r un lefelau â'r hyn a etifeddodd y Llywodraeth Geidwadol yn 1979. Yr oedd yr etifeddiaeth honno, a ddinistriwyd dros y 18 mlynedd canlynol, yn rhy uchel bryd hynny ac nid ydym yn hapus â hi yn awr. Mae angen inni weld rhagor o welliant.

Gwyddom fod llawer gormod o gymunedau yn parhau i ddiodeff lefelau annerbyniol o ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol gan bobl o bob oed. Gwyddom mai'r ffactor y mae llawer o bobl yng Nghymru yn teimlo a

quality of their lives is the effective tackling of anti-social behaviour. Consequently, it is important that we send out clear signals about what we regard as socially responsible and irresponsible behaviour.

Law-abiding citizens should not suffer anti-social behaviour and have their neighbourhood and community spirit undermined. People's ability to go about their lawful business should not be held to ransom by an anti-social minority. Those who engage in anti-social behaviour should be held to account for their action, the misery that they cause, and the destructive effect that it has on social cohesion and community solidarity, which is at the heart of any society that lives at peace with itself. The issues are that important.

As the Conservative motion says, it is not just enough to respond, we must also start examining the causes and what needs to be done to prevent a recurrence. We know from the work of the Audit Office that areas that suffer most from anti-social behaviour are not randomly spread across society, but are much more likely to be located in areas where a wide range of additional factors lead to substantial social disadvantage, not to mention the problems relating to drugs and alcohol.

The Welsh Assembly Government is trying to implement a range of policies that tackle these causative factors. Apart from our new strategy on drugs and alcohol, which is out for consultation, programmes such as Communities First, Cymorth, Flying Start, the foundation phase, 14-19 learning pathways, the emerging NEET strategy, our efforts to tackle child poverty, the effective youth policy, and the crucial role that children and young people partnerships play are all committed to enhancing young people's life chances and giving them the best start in life and, consequently, to reducing the risk of their being involved in anti-social behaviour.

It is because of this record that we reject amendment 3. A partnership approach is vital

fyddai'n gwneud gwahaniaeth i ansawdd eu bywydau yw mynd i'r afael yn effeithiol ag ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol. O ganlyniad, mae'n bwysig inni gyfleu negeseuon clir ynghylch yr hyn a ystyriwn yn ymddygiad cymdeithasol cyfrifol ac anghyfrifol.

Ni ddylai dinasyddion sy'n parchu'r gyfraith ddiodeff ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol sy'n arwain at danseilio ysbryd eu cymdogaeth a'u cymuned. Ni ddylai lleiafrif gwrthgymdeithasol rwystro gallu pobl i fyw eu bywydau'n gyfreithlon. Dylai'r rheini sy'n ymddwyn yn wrthgymdeithasol gael eu dwyn i gyfrif am eu gweithredoedd, am y trallod a achosant, ac am yr effaith ddinistriol a gaiff hynny ar gydlyniant cymdeithasol ac undod cymunedol, sydd wrth wraidd unrhyw gymdeithas heddychlon. Mae'r materion mor bwysig â hynny.

Fel y dywed cynnig y Ceidwadwyr, nid yw ymateb yn ddigon: rhaid inni hefyd ddechrau edrych ar yr achosion a'r hyn y mae angen ei wneud i'w hatal rhag digwydd eto. Gwyddom o waith y Swyddfa Archwilio nad yw'r ardaloedd sy'n diodeff fwyaf oherwydd ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol wedi eu gwasgaru ar hap ar draws cymdeithas. Maent yn llawer mwy tebygol o fod mewn ardaloedd lle mae ystod eang o ffactorau ychwanegol yn arwain at anfantais gymdeithasol sylweddol, heb sôn am y problemau'n ymwneud â chyffuriau ac alcohol.

Mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn ceisio rhoi ystod o bolisiau ar waith sy'n mynd i'r afael â'r achosion hyn. Ar wahân i'n strategaeth newydd ar gyffuriau ac alcohol y mae ymgynghori arni ar hyn o bryd, mae rhaglenni fel Cymunedau yn Gyntaf, Cymorth, Dechrau'n Deg, y cam sylfaen, llwybrau dysgu 14-19, y strategaeth NEET arfaethedig, ein hymdrechion i fynd i'r afael â thlodi plant, y polisi ieuencid effeithiol, a rôl hollbwysig partneriaethau plant a phobl ifanc, i gyd wedi ymrwymo i wella cyfleoedd bywyd pobl ifanc ac i roi'r dechrau gorau iddynt mewn bywyd, ac o ganlyniad i leihau risg ymddwyn yn wrthgymdeithasol.

Oherwydd y record hon yr ydym yn gwrthod gwelliant 3. Mae ymagwedd bartneriaeth yn

if anti-social behaviour is to be effectively tackled, and it is important to acknowledge the work that local agencies are doing, particularly through the community safety partnerships.

The Welsh Assembly Government supports community safety partnerships in tackling anti-social behaviour in a number of ways. We welcome the appointment of anti-social behaviour co-ordinators in all partnerships throughout Wales.

In 2008-09, the Welsh Assembly Government's Safer Communities fund will be providing community safety partnerships with an additional £4.5 million. This will enable them to fund projects that tackle youth crime, including anti-social behaviour, as well as a range of activities that will give our youth an enhanced life experience. Projects will vary and can include provision not only for outreach workers, but for diversionary activities, victim inclusion projects, and youth mentoring schemes, to mention but a few.

The misuse of drugs and alcohol can lead to anti-social behaviour. Our funding to tackle substance misuse has increased substantially. The funding for 2008-09 is worth £25.5 million. We are currently consulting on our new strategy, and an additional £12.6 million will be made available to support it over the next three years. Tackling alcohol misuse is a priority in the new strategy. We will focus on treatment and prevention, and that will be underpinned by an alcohol action plan, which is being prepared by the National Public Health Service for Wales.

We are determined to do whatever we can to prevent alcohol-related crime and disorder. We want to make towns and cities in Wales better and safer places in which to live and work, as well as to visit, particularly during the evenings. We are already putting together a framework of good practice with local agencies to manage the evening and

hollbwysig os ydym i fynd i'r afael yn effeithiol ag ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol, ac mae'n bwysig cydnabod y gwaith a wneir gan asiantaethau lleol, yn arbennig drwy'r partneriaethau diogelwch cymunedol.

Mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn cefnogi partneriaethau diogelwch cymunedol wrth fynd i'r afael ag ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol mewn llawer ffordd. Yr ydym yn croesawu penodi cydgysylltwyr ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol yn yr holl bartneriaethau ledled Cymru.

Yn 2008-09, bydd yn gronfa Cymunedau Diogelach gan Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn darparu £4.5 miliwn yn ychwanegol i'r partneriaethau diogelwch cymunedol. Bydd hyn yn eu galluogi i gyllido prosiectau sy'n mynd i'r afael â throeddau gan bobl ifanc, gan gynnwys ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol, yn ogystal ag ystod o weithgareddau i roi i'n pobl ifanc well profiadau bywyd. Bydd y prosiectau'n amrywio, a gallant gynnwys darpariaeth nid yn unig ar gyfer gweithwyr allgymorth, ond ar gyfer gweithgareddau dargyfeirio, prosiectau cynnwys dioddefwyr, a chynlluniau mentora pobl ifanc, i sôn am rai yn unig.

Gall camddefnyddio cyffuriau ac alcohol arwain at ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol. Mae ein cyllid i fynd i'r afael â chamddefnyddio sylweddau wedi cynyddu'n sylweddol. Mae'r cyllid ar gyfer 2008-09 yn werth £25.5 miliwn. Yr ydym wrthi ar hyn o bryd yn ymgynghori ynghylch ein strategaeth newydd, a darperir £12.6 miliwn yn ychwanegol i'w chefnogi dros y tair blynedd nesaf. Mae mynd i'r afael â chamddefnyddio alcohol yn flaenoriaeth yn y strategaeth newydd. Byddwn yn canolbwyntio ar drin ac atal, ac yn sail i hynny bydd cynllun gweithredu ar alcohol, sy'n cael ei baratoi gan y Gwasanaeth Iechyd Cyhoeddus Cenedlaethol i Gymru.

Yr ydym yn benderfynol o wneud beth bynnag a allwn i atal troseddau ac anhrefn sy'n gysylltiedig ag alcohol. Yr ydym am wneud trefi a dinasoedd yng Nghymru yn lleoedd gwell a mwy diogel i fyw a gweithio, yn ogystal ag i ymweld â hwy, yn enwedig fin nos. Yr ydym eisoes yn llunio fframwaith arfer da gydag asiantaethau lleol i reoli

night-time economy. The police, local business interests—including licensed premises and transport bodies—and local authorities are all working together to make evenings out safer and more enjoyable for people of all ages.

We are also funding four pilot projects to provide examples of good practice on how best to tackle the crime and anti-social behaviour associated with excessive alcohol consumption. Anti-social behaviour orders can be effective, but we in Wales prefer to use them as a last resort and to take a careful, tiered approach. The key findings of a National Audit Office report in 2006 backed our approach. It found that the majority of the sample of people who received anti-social behaviour interventions did not re-engage in anti-social behaviour. Sixty-five per cent of people in the sample who received an acceptable behaviour contract did not re-engage in anti-social behaviour, and 63 per cent of people in the sample who received a warning letter desisted from anti-social behaviour. For the sake of completeness, half of the sample of people who received an ASBO did not breach it. Clearly, the tiered approach that we endorse in Wales is the proper and proportionate way forward.

As Leanne said, I doubt that there will ever be a time when bad behaviour will be eradicated, and there is not much that we can do about that. However, I feel that the Welsh Assembly is going a long way towards improving society and making Wales a safer place.

Turning to amendments 1 and 2, we believe that amendment 1 should be rejected because, although the Welsh Assembly Government recognises the positive role of the 101 service, it is not directly responsible for it, and we are pleased that South Wales Police, working with Cardiff council, has been able to support the continuation of the service. We also believe that amendment 2 should be rejected. We recognise the importance of police community support officers; we

economi min nos ac economi'r nos. Mae'r heddlu, buddiannau busnes lleol—gan gynnwys eiddo trwyddedig a chyrff cludiant—ac awdurdodau lleol i gyd yn gweithio gyda'i gilydd i wneud nosweithiau allan yn fwy diogel a mwy pleserus i bobl o bob oedran.

Yr ydym hefyd yn cyllido pedwar prosiect peilot i ddarparu enghreifftiau o arfer da o ran y ffyrdd gorau o fynd i'r afael â'r troseddau a'r ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol sy'n gysylltiedig â goryfed alcohol. Gall gorchmynion ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol fod yn effeithiol, ond mae'n well gennym ni yng Nghymru eu defnyddio fel cam eithaf a gweithredu'n ofalus, fesul cam. Yr oedd darganfyddiadau allweddol adroddiad gan y Swyddfa Archwilio Genedlaethol yn 2006 yn cefnogi ein dull. Gwelodd na wnaeth y mwyafrif o'r sampl o bobl a gafodd ymyriadau ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol fynd ati eilwaith i ymddwyn yn wrthgymdeithasol. Ni wnaeth 65 y cant o'r bobl yn y sampl a gafodd gontract ymddygiad derbynol fynd ati eilwaith i ymddwyn yn wrthgymdeithasol, ac ymatalodd 63 y cant o'r bobl yn y sampl a gafodd lythyr rhybuddio rhag ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol. I roi'r darlun cyflawn, ni thorrwyd ASBO gan hanner y bobl a oedd wedi cael un. Mae'n amlwg mai'r dull o weithredu ar wahanol lefelau a gefnogir gennym yng Nghymru yw'r ffordd iawn a chymesur ymlaen.

Fel y dywedodd Leanne, yr wyf yn amau a ddaw amser byth pan fydd ymddwyn yn ddrwg wedi ei ddileu, ac nid oes llawer y gallwn ei wneud am hynny. Fodd bynnag, teimlaf fod Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn mynd ymhell tuag at wella cymdeithas a gwneud Cymru'n lle mwy diogel.

I droi at welliannau 1 a 2, credwn y dylai gwelliant 1 gael ei wrthod, oherwydd er bod Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn cydnabod rôl bositif y gwasanaeth 101, nid yw'n uniongyrchol gyfrifol amdano, ac yr ydym yn falch fod Heddlu De Cymru, gan weithio gyda chyngor Caerdydd, wedi gallu cefnogi parhad y gwasanaeth. Credwn hefyd y dylid gwrthod gwelliant 2. Yr ydym yn cydnabod pwysigrwydd swyddogion cymorth cymunedol yr heddlu; croesawn eu rôl

welcome the key role that they have played in reducing anti-social behaviour and most communities also recognise that. However, the provision of PCSOs is a matter for local determination and, in the first instance, for the Home Office. I am pleased that the Home Office has promised continuing funding for PCSOs.

In conclusion, we cannot simply shrug our shoulders when it comes to anti-social behaviour. Tackling this is crucial for people's quality of life and for the social cohesion of our communities. However, the Conservative motion should be supported because it acknowledges the importance of addressing the problem at source and of responding proportionately.

Andrew R.T. Davies: I thank everyone who has contributed to this afternoon's debate. The number of speakers and the little tête-à-tête between the Labour and the Liberal Democrat parties would lead one to assume that an election campaign was under way. However, I do not think that many Labour candidates will be rushing to people's doorsteps with the Minister's statement in case they are challenged on the issue of anti-social behaviour.

3.50 p.m.

It is an issue that is brought up with me time and again when out canvassing on the doorsteps, and I find that people's views resonate with the Conservatives' philosophy about the best ways to tackle anti-social behaviour, rather than Labour's approach, which is mediocre at best. That was emphasised when the Minister rejected the two Liberal Democrat amendments concerning the 101 service and PCSOs. Even though the Government is not directly responsible for them, there would have been nothing wrong with it showing support for them by backing the amendments.

It is rather unfortunate that we have had the ageism argument—

Lesley Griffiths: Do you agree that the

allweddol wrth ostwng lefelau ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol, ac mae'r rhan fwyaf o gymunedau hefyd yn cydnabod hynny. Fodd bynnag, mater i'w benderfynu'n lleol yw swyddogion cymorth cymunedol yr heddlu, ac yn y lle cyntaf mater i'r Swyddfa Gartref ydyw. Yr wyf yn falch fod y Swyddfa Gartref wedi addo y bydd y cyllid ar gyfer y swyddogion cymorth cymunedol yn parhau.

I gloi, ni allwn godi'n hysgwyddau a gwneud dim mwy wrth ystyried ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol. Mae mynd i'r afael â hyn yn hanfodol i ansawdd bywyd pobl ac i gydlynid cymdeithasol ein cymunedau. Fodd bynnag, dylid cefnogi cynnig y Ceidwadwyr oherwydd mae'n cydnabod pwysigrwydd ymdrin â'r broblem yn ei tharddle ac ymateb mewn ffordd gymesur.

Andrew R.T. Davies: Diolchaf i bawb sydd wedi cyfrannu at y ddadl y prynhawn yma. Byddai nifer y siaradwyr a'r tête-à-tête bychan rhwng y blaid Lafur a'r Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol yn peri i rywun dybio bod ymgyrch etholiadol ar y gweill. Fodd bynnag, ni chredaf y bydd llawer o ymgeiswyr Llafur yn rhuthro i stepen drws pobl gyda datganiad y Gweinidog rhag ofn iddynt gael eu herio ar fater ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol.

Mae'n fater a gaiff ei godi gyda mi dro ar ôl tra pan fyddaf allan yn canfasio ar stepen y drws, a gwelaf fod barn pobl yn adleisio athroniaeth y Ceidwadwyr ynglŷn â'r ffyrdd gorau i fynd i'r afael ag ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol, yn hytrach na dull gweithredu Llafur, sy'n ddigon tila ar y gorau. Pwysleiswyd hynny pan wrthododd y Gweinidog y ddau welliant gan y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol ynglŷn â'r gwasanaeth 101 a swyddogion cymorth cymunedol yr heddlu. Er nad yw'r Llywodraeth yn uniongyrchol gyfrifol amdanynt, ni fyddai dim wedi bod o le iddi ddangos cefnogaeth iddynt drwy gefnogi'r gwelliannau.

Mae braidd yn anffodus ein bod wedi cael y ddadl am ragfarn oed—

Lesley Griffiths: A ydych yn cytuno bod y

Liberal Democrats completely missed my point this afternoon? I was not being ageist; I was trying to highlight the inadequacies of their youth policies.

Andrew R.T. Davies: I do not want to come between two live-in lover parties. I will let you argue that one between you. However, I believe that experience is vital in formulating an informed society, and I am sure, Lesley, that you did not mean any ageism, although it may have been construed that way. Hopefully, the matter can be cleared up in correspondence.

Today, we are debating anti-social behaviour, which can be on a broad spectrum. It can be graffiti on a wall next door to a housing estate. It can be kids playing in the street. It can be people playing their music flat out, or a whole range of things. To some people, they may not seem to be a problem, but, to others, they are. The Assembly can do far more than it gives itself credit for. For instance, a lack of housing means that people cannot live where they want to live, and that can give rise to many issues of anti-socialism. [*Laughter.*] The nationalists can snigger all they want, but, time and again, when I go to housing estates, I find that the main issue that concerns people is the quality of the housing on offer to them, as well as their inability to get on the housing ladder. I appreciate that the nationalists find it difficult to get out of their socialist bunker, but this institution is responsible for housing and planning, and it could achieve so much more by giving people what they want in their communities.

Bethan Jenkins: Mark Isherwood has been undermining the New Labour Government's record on anti-social behaviour, but you are now saying that there is a nationalist-socialist agenda. I do not understand.

Andrew R.T. Davies: I fail to agree. I did not say that there was a nationalist-socialist agenda; I brought housing into the argument, and people's ability to get on the housing ladder. If people feel content and live in the community of their choice, they will not

Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol wedi methu fy mhwynt yn llwyr y prynhawn yma? Nid oeddwn yn dangos rhagfarn oed; yr oeddwn yn ceisio tynnu sylw at annigonolrwydd eu polisiau ieuencid.

Andrew R.T. Davies: Nid wyf am ddod rhwng dwy blaid sy'n cyd-fyw â'i gilydd. Gadawaf i chi ddadlau am hynny rhyngoch. Fodd bynnag, credaf fod profiad yn hollbwysig i greu cymdeithas wybodus, ac yr wyf yn siŵr, Lesley, nad oeddech yn golygu unrhyw ragfarn oed, er ei fod wedi cael ei ddehongli felly efallai. Gobeithio y gellir egluro'r mater mewn gohebiaeth.

Heddiw, yr ydym yn trafod ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol, a all fod â sbectrum eang. Gall fod yn graffiti ar wal wrth ymyl ystâd tai. Gall fod yn blant yn chwarae yn y stryd. Gall fod yn bobl yn chwarae eu cerddoriaeth yn uchel iawn, neu'n amrywiaeth eang o bethau. I rai pobl, efallai nad ydynt yn ymddangos yn broblem ond, i eraill, y maent. Gall y Cynulliad wneud llawer iawn mwy nag y mae'n ei gredu. Er enghraifft, mae diffyg tai yn golygu na all pob fyw lle maent am fyw, a gall hynny godi llawer o broblemau'n ymwneud â gwrth-sosialaeth. [*Chwerthin.*] Gall y cenedlaetholwr biffian chwerthin fel y mynnant, ond dro ar ôl tro, pan af i ystadau tai, gwelaf mai'r prif fater sy'n pryderu pobl yw ansawdd y tai sydd ar gael iddynt, yn ogystal â'u hanallu i gael eu troed ar yr ysgol tai. Sylweddolaf fod y cenedlaetholwyr yn cael anhawster i ddod allan o'u byncher sosialaidd, ond mae'r sefydliad hwn yn gyfrifol am dai a chynllunio, a gallai gyflawni cymaint mwy drwy roi i bobl yr hyn y maent am ei gael yn eu cymunedau.

Bethan Jenkins: Mae Mark Isherwood wedi bod yn tanseilio record Llywodraeth Llafur Newydd ar ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol, ond yr ydych yn dweud yn awr fod yna agenda genedlaetholgar-sosialaidd. Nid wyf yn deall.

Andrew R.T. Davies: Ni allaf gytuno. Ni ddywedais fod yna agenda genedlaetholgar-sosialaidd; deuthum â thai i mewn i'r ddadl, a gallu pobl i ddringo ar yr ysgol tai. Os yw pobl yn teimlo'n fodlon ac yn byw yn y gymuned o'u dewis, ni fyddant yn gwrthod y

reject their community in the form of anti-social behaviour. The sniggers from the nationalist benches indicate to me that you cannot get your head around that. I can see it in your faces. You just do not understand the issues.

Going back to the substance of the argument, there were many contributions today. We heard of the actions of various local authorities, but we must ensure that we engage across the spectrum of public bodies, including the police and social services departments, so that families and communities get help with their problems before their situation is exacerbated and people feel alienated.

Alcohol is also a big problem, fuelling anti-social behaviour by people of all ages. Although, sadly, it is mainly an issue for the young, it is not just the young who have a problem with alcohol; the statistics show that it goes right across the board. In my region, a Somerfield site has just opened on Llantrisant road, which is trying to get a 24-hour drinks licence, much to the annoyance of local residents. There is no history of drink having been sold on that site before, and it is right next to a main road and so the effects are bound to spread to the community. There is a railway line immediately behind the site, and so I talked to the British Transport Police, but I discovered that it had not been consulted either. There is a genuine issue with the availability and accessibility of alcohol in our society that we fail to address, and yet this institution could address it easily through the planning process.

Alun Ffred Jones: I take your point entirely about the ease of access to alcohol, but that was made successively easier throughout the Tory years and the Labour years in Government. It has become much easier to get a licence to sell alcohol.

Andrew R.T. Davies: Alun Ffred, you and everyone in the Chamber knows that, over the past 10 years, there has been a complete change in mindset about alcohol, including its accessibility. As long as it is used safely,

gymuned drwy ymddwyn yn wrthgymdeithasol. Mae'r piffian chwerthin oddi ar feinciau'r cenedlaetholwyr yn dangos i mi nad ydych yn gallu dirnad hynny. Fe'i gwelaf yn eich wynebau. Nid ydych yn deall y problemau.

I fynd yn ôl at sylwedd y ddadl, cafwyd nifer o gyfraniadau heddiw. Clywsom am y ffordd y mae gwahanol awdurdodau lleol wedi gweithredu, ond rhaid inni sicrhau ein bod yn ymgysylltu ar draws y sbectwm o gyrff cyhoeddus, gan gynnwys yr heddlu a'r adrannau gwasanaethau cymdeithasol, fel y bydd teuluoedd a chymunedau'n cael help gyda'u problemau cyn i'r sefyllfa waethygu a chyn i bobl deimlo'u bod yn cael eu gwthio o'r neilltu.

Mae alcohol hefyd yn broblem fawr, yn hybu ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol mewn pobl o bob oed. Er mai problem i bobl ifanc ydyw yn bennaf, yn drist iawn, nid pobl ifanc yn unig sydd â phroblemau alcohol; mae'r ystadegau'n dangos ei bod yn digwydd ar draws pob oedran. Yn fy rhanbarth i, mae safle Somerfield newydd agor ar ffordd Llantrisant, ac mae'n ceisio cael trwydded diodydd 24 awr, sy'n cythruddo'r trigolion lleol yn fawr. Nid oes hanes o werthu diod ar y safle hwnnw o'r blaen, ac y mae'r drws nesaf i brif ffordd felly mae'r effeithiau'n siŵr o ledaenu i'r gymuned. Mae rheilffordd yn union y tu cefn i'r safle, felly, siaradais â Heddlu Trafnidiaeth Prydain, ond canfûm nad oedd neb wedi ymgynghori â hwy ychwaith. Mae mater gwirioneddol yn ymwneud ag argaeledd a hygyrchedd alcohol yn ein cymuned nad ydym yn ymdrin ag ef, ond gallai'r sefydliad hwn ymdrin ag ef yn hawdd drwy'r broses gynllunio.

Alun Ffred Jones: Yr wyf yn cymryd eich pwynt yn llwyr ei bod hi mor hawdd cael gafael ar alcohol, ond cafodd hynny ei wneud yn gynyddol haws ar hyd blynyddoedd y Torïaid a blynyddoedd Llafur mewn Llywodraeth. Mae wedi dod yn llawer haws cael trwydded i werthu alcohol.

Andrew R.T. Davies: Alun Ffred, gwyddoch chi a phawb arall yn y Siambr fod newid yn yr agwedd at alcohol dros y 10 mlynedd diwethaf, gan gynnwys hwylustod cael gafael arno. Cyhyd â'i fod yn cael ei ddefnyddio'n

alcohol can be beneficial to society, but when you have unfettered access to it, it can really cause problems.

The final issue that I will raise is access to community projects. Time and again, we talk to people from all sections of society who say that they have no access to amenity projects. A case was brought to my attention the other day involving the new sports village in Cardiff bay. There is no direct bus link for residents in the area and the communities beyond to access the facilities. When people are working—whether husband or wife, or single-parent families—how can they or their children access those facilities that are laid on for the benefit of a community? There is no strategic or joined-up thinking about providing facilities for people to channel their energies into.

Jeff Cuthbert mentioned the voluntary sector, and we should use it more so that volunteers can coach youngsters and make a meaningful contribution to society. The Scout movement is a cracking example of that, but it struggles to find people to take on the role of scoutmaster.

We have a meaningful debate, but, sadly, we have heard little of any substance from the Labour and nationalist benches. That will be borne out on 1 May when people vote.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: We will defer voting until voting time.

*Gohiriwyd y pleidleisiau tan 5 p.m.
Votes deferred until 5 p.m.*

Dadl Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru Welsh Liberal Democrats Debate

Y Cyfnod Sylfaen The Foundation Phase

Kirsty Williams: I propose that

the National Assembly for Wales regrets that the aspirations of the foundation phase are unlikely to be achieved due to the inadequate funding and planning of the Welsh Assembly

ddiogel, gall alcohol fod yn fuddiol i gymdeithas, ond pan ellir ei gael yn ddilyffethair gall achosi problemau gwirioneddol.

Y mater olaf yr wyf am ei godi yw gallu manteisio ar brosiectau cymunedol. Dro ar ôl tro byddwn yn siarad â phobl o bob carfan o gymdeithas sy'n dweud nad ydynt yn gallu manteisio ar brosiectau amwynder. Tynnwyd achos i'm sylw y diwrnod o'r blaen yn ymwneud â'r pentref chwaraeon newydd ym Mae Caerdydd. Nid oes cyswllt bws uniongyrchol i'r cyfleusterau i drigolion yn yr ardal a'r cymunedau y tu hwnt. Pan fydd pobl yn gweithio—boed yn wŷr a gwraig neu'n deuluoedd un rhiant—sut y gallant hwy neu eu plant fanteisio ar y cyfleusterau hynny sy'n cael eu darparu er budd y gymuned? Nid oes meddwl strategol neu gydgyssylltiedig ynglŷn â darparu cyfleusterau i bobl sianelu eu hegni iddynt.

Crybwyllodd Jeff Cuthbert y sector gwirfoddol, a dylem ddefnyddio mwy arno er mwyn i wirfoddolwyr allu hyfforddi pobl ifanc a gwneud cyfraniad gwerth chweil i gymdeithas. Mae mudiad y Sgowtiaid yn enghraifft wych o hynny, ond mae'n cael anhawster i gael pobl i fod yn sgowtfeistri.

Yr ydym yn cael dadl ystyrlon, ond yn anffodus nid ydym wedi clywed fawr o sylwedd gan y meinciau Llafur a'r cenedlaetholwyr. Caiff hynny ei gadarnhau ar 1 Mai pan fydd pobl yn pleidleisio.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Gohiriwn y pleidleisio tan yr amser pleidleisio.

Kirsty Williams: Cynigiau fod

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru yn gresynu ei bod yn annhebygol y caiff dyheadau'r cyfnod sylfaen eu cyflawni oherwydd cyllido a chynllunio annigonol Llywodraeth Cynulliad

Government. (NDM3911)

From the start, I clearly state my party's support for the foundation phase and the Government's aspirations for this significant shift in how our youngest children begin their educational experience.

*Daeth Lorraine Barrett i'r Gadair am 3.56 p.m.
Lorraine Barrett took the Chair at 3.56 p.m.*

The key to my party's for the foundation phase and the widespread support that it has received since it was first debated, many years ago, is the principle of high adult-to-pupil ratios, the emphasis on learning through doing, and the emphasis placed on outdoor learning.

From those earliest days, it became obvious that, to achieve that, this significant change to the curriculum would lead to considerable demands, including training existing staff, recruiting and training new staff, and the need to invest in new resources and facilities, all of which would have consequences for the very fabric of the settings in which the foundation phase would be delivered.

From the teaching unions to Estyn, all were agreed that, to get the foundation phase right, significant investment and high levels of planning would be needed. That was the purpose of piloting the foundation phase in several schools: so that we could get the funding levels right and know what was involved so that, when it came to its launch in September 2008, all schools would be in a position to move forward. However, with just five months to go, local authorities, school leaders, governors and parents are clearly stating that their ability to implement the foundation phase in September is in jeopardy because of the Government's approach to funding and planning.

To begin with, the resources that were to be made available to each local education authority came late. They were expected in January, but they did not arrive until March. When they did come, local authorities saw a significant shortfall between the money that they said they needed to implement the

Cymru. (NDM3911)

O'r cychwyn, yw wyf yn datgan yn glir gefnogaeth fy mhlaid i'r cyfnod sylfaen a dyheadau'r Llywodraeth ar gyfer y newid arwyddocaol hwn yn y ffordd y mae ein plant ieuengaf yn dechrau ar eu profiad addysgol.

Yr allwedd i'm plaid i o ran y cyfnod sylfaen a'r gefnogaeth eang y mae wedi'i chael ers iddo gael ei drafod gyntaf, flynyddoedd lawer yn ôl, yw'r egwyddor o gymarebau uchel oedolyn-i-ddisgybl, y pwyslais ar ddysgu drwy wneud, a'r pwyslais a roddir ar ddysgu yn yr awyr agored.

O'r dyddiau cynharaf hynny, daeth yn amlwg, er mwyn gwireddu hynny, y byddai'r newid sylweddol hwn yn y cwricwlwm yn arwain at alwadau sylweddol, gan cynnwys hyfforddi'r staff presennol, recriwtio a hyfforddi staff newydd, a'r angen am fuddsoddi mewn adnoddau a chyfleusterau newydd, ac y byddai canlyniadau i'r rhain i gyd o ran holl wead y sefydliadau lle câi'r cyfnod sylfaen ei gyflwyno.

O undebau'r athrawon hyd at Estyn, yr oeddent i gyd yn gytûn, er mwyn cael y cyfnod sylfaen yn iawn, y byddai angen buddsoddiad sylweddol a lefelau uchel o gynllunio. Dyna oedd diben treialu'r cyfnod sylfaen mewn nifer o ysgolion fel y gallem gael y lefelau cyllido yn iawn a gwybod beth yr oedd y cynllun yn ei olygu, fel y byddai pob ysgol, pan ddeuai'n bryd ei lansio ym mis Medi 2008, mewn sefyllfa i symud ymlaen. Fodd bynnag, gyda phum mis yn unig i fynd, mae awdurdodau lleol, arweinwyr ysgolion, llywodraethwyr a rhieni yn dweud yn glir fod eu gallu i weithredu'r cyfnod sylfaen ym mis Medi mewn perygl oherwydd agwedd y Llywodraeth at gyllido a chynllunio.

I ddechrau, daeth yr adnoddau a oedd i fod i gael eu darparu i bob awdurdod addysg lleol yn hwyr. Yr oeddid yn eu disgwyl ym mis Ionawr, ond ni ddaethant tan fis Mawrth. Pan ddaethant, gwelodd yr awdurdodau lleol fod diffyg sylweddol rhwng yr arian y dywedasant hwy yr oedd ei angen arnynt i

foundation phase and what was actually being offered by this Plaid-Labour Government. These are local authorities the length and breadth of Wales, including those controlled by each of our main parties and those controlled by more than one. Newport, as we heard earlier, is £450,000 short, Flintshire is £560,000 short, and Powys, my own local authority, is £1 million short of the resources that it needs to ensure that all children get this vital opportunity.

We are now at a stage where teachers in at least two parts of Wales are threatening to boycott the implementation of the foundation phase in September. They do not do so lightly, because they support the opportunities that it offers their pupils. They understand, however, that they cannot do what is asked of them by this Government with the resources being made available. If those teachers in Cardiff and the Vale do take action, it will mean that one in 10 schools across the country will be boycotting this flagship Government proposal.

4.00 p.m.

In other areas, to protect the levels of funding that have gone to pilot schools, local authorities are letting other schools go without. In other schools, school leaders are being asked to make the unenviable choice to shift resources from other parts of the school and other aspects of the curriculum to make up for the Plaid-Labour shortfall in the funding that has been given to them for the foundation phase.

I acknowledge that the Government is putting resources into this policy. It has been said several times this afternoon that the amount is £107 million, although I note that the Minister is less keen to finish the sentence and add the words 'over three years'. However, if you look at the figures, the Government has only identified £103 million; £4 million will be needed to honour contracts that the Government has already entered into, and it has to find that £4 million. Therefore, we are already £4 million down on what the Government has stated. However, research

weithredu'r cyfnod sylfaen a'r hyn a oedd yn cael ei gynnig mewn gwirionedd gan y Llywodraeth Plaid-Llafur hon. Mae'r awdurdodau lleol hyn ar hyd a lled Cymru, gan gynnwys y rhai sy'n cael eu rheoli gan bob un o'n prif bleidiau a'r rheini sy'n cael eu rheoli gan fwy nag un. Mae Casnewydd, fel y clywsom yn gynharach, £450,000 yn brin, mae sir y Fflint £560,000 yn brin, ac mae Powys, fy awdurdod lleol i, £1 filiwn yn brin o'r adnoddau y mae eu hangen arno i sicrhau bod pob plentyn yn cael y cyfle hollbwysig hwn.

Yr ydym bellach mewn sefyllfa lle mae'r athrawon mewn dwy ran o Gymru o leiaf yn bygwth boicotio gweithredu'r cyfnod sylfaen ym mis Medi. Nid ydynt yn gwneud hynny'n ddifeddwl, oherwydd maent yn cefnogi'r cyfleoedd y mae'n ei gynnig i'w disgyblion. Deallant, fodd bynnag, na allant wneud yr hyn a ofynnir ohonynt gan y Llywodraeth hon â'r adnoddau sy'n cael eu darparu. Os bydd yr athrawon hynny yng Nghaerdydd a'r Fro yn gweithredu, bydd yn golygu y bydd un o bob 10 ysgol ar draws y wlad yn boicotio'r cynnig blaenllaw hwn o eiddo'r Llywodraeth.

Mewn ardaloedd eraill, i amddiffyn y lefelau cyllid sydd wedi eu rhoi i ysgolion peilot, mae awdurdodau lleol yn gadael i ysgolion eraill fod yn brin o arian. Mewn ysgolion eraill, gofynnir i arweinwyr ysgol wneud y dewis annymunol a symud adnoddau o rannau eraill o'r ysgol ac agweddau eraill ar y cwricwlwm er mwyn gwneud iawn am y diffyg yn y cyllid y mae Plaid-Llafur wedi'i roi iddynt ar gyfer y cyfnod sylfaen.

Yr wyf yn derbyn bod y Llywodraeth yn neilltuo adnoddau ar gyfer y polisi hwn. Dywedwyd droeon y prynhawn yma fod y swm yn £107 miliwn, er fy mod yn sylwi bod y Gweinidog yn llai awyddus i orffen y frawddeg ac ychwanegu'r geiriau 'dros dair blynedd'. Fodd bynnag, os edrychwch ar y ffigurau, mae'r Llywodraeth wedi nodi dim ond £103 miliwn; bydd angen £4 miliwn i dalu am contractau y mae'r Llywodraeth eisoes wedi'u gwneud, a rhaid iddi ddod o hyd i'r £4 miliwn hwnnw. Felly, mae gennym £4 miliwn yn llai na'r hyn y mae'r

shows that the costs of the implementation of the nursery and reception phase alone will be £107 million. That is without making provision for years 1 and 2. In its leaked report, the Association of Directors of Education in Wales states that only £41 million of additional new money will find its way to local authorities over the next three years.

In the Chamber in recent weeks, we have seen the First Minister playing the usual blame game and passing the buck, which demonstrates once again why we need to get transparency into the funding arrangements for education. It is not acceptable for teachers and parents to have to put with this game of ping-pong between local government and the Assembly Government. The First Minister says that the Government is giving LEAs what they have asked for, but that is simply not the case. Figures from the expenditure sub-group report in summer 2007, and evidence given to the Finance Committee, identified that an additional £30 million would be needed for 2008-09. The actual additional money that the Government is providing is £15 million.

If you are being generous—and I am prepared to be—and add in the money already provided for the pilots, you still only get to £25 million for 2008-09. That is nowhere near what the organisations that are charged with doing this said that they needed last summer. The First Minister is not correct in saying that the Government is giving LEAs what they have asked for. That money was only to account for the investment in additional staff ratios; it did not take into account additional money for training needs, or for capital investment in schools to deliver the programme.

The Government's officials now accept that the staffing ratios will not be met. That is clearly stated in a letter to all local education authorities from the Minister's department on 13 March this year. Therefore, officials now recognise that it will not be met, even if the

Llywodraeth wedi'i ddweud yn barod. Fodd bynnag, mae ymchwil yn dangos y bydd costau gweithredu'r cyfnod meithrin a derbyn yn unig yn £107 miliwn, a hynny heb ddarparu ar gyfer blynyddoedd 1 a 2. Yn yr adroddiad o'i heiddo a ddatgelwyd yn answyddogol, mae Cymdeithas Cyfarwyddwyr Addysg Cymru yn dweud mai £41 miliwn yn unig o'r arian newydd ychwanegol a fydd yn cyrraedd awdurdodau lleol dros y tair blynedd nesaf.

Yn y Siambr yn yr wythnosau diwethaf yr ydym wedi gweld y Prif Weinidog yn chwarae'r gêm arferol o fwrw'r bai a thafu'r baich, ac mae hynny'n dangos unwaith eto pam y mae angen inni sicrhau trefniadau eglur ar gyfer ariannu addysg. Nid yw'n dderbyniol fod athrawon a rhieni'n gorfod goddef y gêm ping-pong hon rhwng llywodraeth leol a Llywodraeth y Cynulliad. Dywed y Prif Weinidog fod y Llywodraeth yn rhoi i AALLau yr hyn y maent wedi gofyn amdano, ond nid yw hynny'n wir. Dangosodd ffigurau o adroddiad yr is-grŵp gwariant yn yr haf 2007, a thystiolaeth a roddwyd i'r Pwyllgor Cyllid, y byddai angen £30 miliwn yn ychwanegol ar gyfer 2008-09. Yr arian ychwanegol y mae'r Llywodraeth yn ei ddarparu mewn gwirionedd yw £15 miliwn.

Os byddwch yn hael—ac yr wyf yn barod i fod yn hael—ac ychwanegu'r arian a ddarparwyd eisoes ar gyfer y cynlluniau peilot, nid oes ond £25 miliwn eto ar gyfer 2008-09. Mae hynny ymhell o'r hyn y dywedodd y cyrff yr ymddiriedir y gwaith hwn iddynt fod arnynt ei angen yr haf diwethaf. Nid yw'r Prif Weinidog yn gywir wrth ddweud bod y Llywodraeth yn rhoi i AALLau yr hyn y maent wedi gofyn amdano. Yr oedd yr arian hwnnw i gyfrif yn unig am y buddsoddiad mewn cymarebau staff ychwanegol; nid oedd yn cynnwys arian ychwanegol ar gyfer anghenion hyfforddi, neu ar gyfer buddsoddiad cyfalaf mewn ysgolion i ddarparu'r rhaglen.

Mae swyddogion y Llywodraeth yn derbyn bellach na fodlonir y cymarebau staffio. Dywedir hynny'n glir mewn llythyr at bob awdurdod addysg lleol gan adran y Gweinidog ar 13 Mawrth eleni. Felly, mae swyddogion yn cydnabod yn awr na

First Minister and the Minister refuse to agree. It is a far cry from the Department for Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills document No. 025/06, released in 2006, that clearly stated that all children aged between three and five would be provided for from September this year. I do not believe that the definition of 'all' has changed in that time, but we all know what has changed in that time.

My colleagues will go on to highlight the consequences of this for Welsh-medium education, the inadequacies in the data collection and the formula that is being used, and the practical difficulties now facing our school leaders and teachers, who have been put in an impossible situation.

To conclude, we are now faced with the prospect of the Minister scurrying around, desperately organising regional consortia meetings to try to sort this mess out. It is not a case of Johnny-come-lately, but Jane-come-lately. She has some serious issues that she needs to get grips with. At present, the funding agreed by this Plaid-Labour Government does not allow schools to employ the necessary staff, does not provide suitable training for existing staff, does not allow schools to retain staff throughout the academic year, does not allow pilot schools to keep up their levels of funding, and does not create the inside and outside learning environment that this Government promised our children. If we do not get a grip on these issues, the benefits for children and teachers that have been clearly demonstrated by the pilots, with pupils who are more engaged and who have better speaking and listening skills, and hugely increased levels of staff confidence, will not be realised across Wales as a whole. We had a wonderful opportunity to transform education in Wales for our youngest pupils, and this Government, in its planning and resourcing, has missed it.

Peter Black: I am grateful to be called to speak so early in the debate; I was expecting another Member to speak before me. As Kirsty said, it is important that the foundation phase proceeds. From its very earliest stages,

chyflawnir hyn, hyd yn oed os yw'r Prif Weinidog a'r Gweinidog yn gwrthod derbyn hynny. Mae hyn yn wahanol iawn i ddogfen yr Adran Addysg, Dysgu Gydol Oes a Sgiliau Rhif 025/06 a gyhoeddwyd yn 2006 ac a ddywedodd yn glir y byddai darpariaeth ar gyfer yr holl blant rhwng tair a phump oed o fis Medi eleni. Ni chredaf fod y diffiniad o 'yr holl blant' wedi newid yn y cyfamser, ond gwyddom i gyd beth sydd wedi newid yn y cyfnod hwnnw.

Bydd fy nghyd-Aelodau'n mynd ymlaen i dynnu sylw at yr effaith a gaiff hyn ar addysg Gymraeg, y diffygion yn y dull o gasglu data a'r fformiwla a ddefnyddir, a'r anawsterau sy'n wynebu ein harweinwyr ysgol a'n hathrawon yn awr, a hwythau wedi'u rhoi mewn sefyllfa amhosibl.

I gloi, yr ydym yn awr yn gweld y Gweinidog yn rhuthro o gwmpas ac wrthi fel lladd nadroedd yn trefnu cyfarfodydd consortia rhanbarthol i geisio rhoi trefn ar y llanstr hwn. Mae hyn yn rhywbeth newydd iddi. Mae angen iddi fynd i'r afael â rhai problemau mawr. Ar hyn o bryd, nid yw'r cyllid y mae'r Llywodraeth Plaid-Llafur hon wedi ei gytuno yn caniatáu i ysgolion gyflogi'r staff angenrheidiol, nid yw'n darparu hyfforddiant addas i'r staff presennol, nid yw'n caniatáu i ysgolion gadw staff drwy gydol y flwyddyn academaidd, nid yw'n caniatáu i ysgolion peilot gadw eu lefelau cyllid, ac nid yw'n creu'r amgylchedd dysgu mewnol ac allanol a addawodd y Llywodraeth hon i'n plant. Os nad awn i'r afael â'r problemau hyn, ni fydd y manteision i blant ac athrawon sydd wedi'u dangos yn glir yn y cynlluniau peilot, lle y mae disgyblion sy'n fwy effro ac sydd â gwell sgiliau siarad a gwrando, a lle y mae llawer mwy o hyder ymysg staff, yn cael eu gwireddu ledled Cymru. Yr oedd gennym gyfle gwych i drawsnewid addysg yng Nghymru er mwyn ein disgyblion ieuengaf, ac mae'r Llywodraeth hon, drwy ei chynllunio a'r adnoddau y mae'n eu darparu, wedi'i golli.

Peter Black: Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar am gael fy ngalw i siarad mor gynnar yn y ddadl; yr oeddwn yn disgwyl i Aelod arall siarad o'm blaen. Fel y dywedodd Kirsty, mae'n bwysig i'r cyfnod sylfaen fynd ymlaen. Ers ei

when it was first mooted—I am not sure whether that was during the last Assembly; it might even have been in the Assembly before that—the foundation phase has had cross-party support, because we all recognise the value of what it can offer to children and young people. That was underlined in the first Rees report on higher education, which concluded that the maximum possible number of 18-year-olds were fulfilling their potential by going to university, but that we were not getting enough 18-year-olds to that stage, and that the way to address that was to invest in early years education. That investment is, effectively, Flying Start and the foundation phase, which we are debating today.

When Jane Davidson, then the Minister for Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills, came before the committee, we questioned her on several occasions about the amount of money that was available for the foundation phase. We asked her about ensuring that the pupil-to-teacher ratios would be met, which is absolutely crucial; and we questioned her about the capital investment that was needed in schools to ensure that the requirements of the foundation phase would be met in all schools. We questioned her in particular about staffing issues and the need to invest in and train new staff to deliver this programme. We were given assurances at every stage that the money was available, the plans were in place, and that the Government was confident that the foundation phase could be delivered as envisaged. There was no reason for us to doubt the Minister's word, because every single time we asked her about it, she was unequivocal in her response.

However, local education authorities are now being asked to bring in the foundation phase without the funding that they need to implement it. They are struggling in many cases to deliver the pupil-to-staff ratios. I have attended several budget fora meetings in my region, and the headteachers were beside themselves because of the late announcement of this funding. They felt that they were not given the time to prepare to introduce this foundation phase and, when the announcement came, it turned out that they did not have the money to introduce it either. That is tragic not only for the schools that

ddyddiau cyntaf un, pan awgrymwyd ef gyntaf—nid wyf yn sicr a oedd hynny yn ystod y Cynulliad diwethaf; gallasai fod yn y Cynulliad cyn hwnnw hyd yn oed—cafwyd cefnogaeth drawsbleidiol i'r cyfnod sylfaen, gan fod pob un ohonom yn cydnabod gwerth yr hyn y gall ei gynnig i blant a phobl ifanc. Tanlinellwyd hynny yn adroddiad cyntaf Rees ar addysg uwch, a ddaeth i'r casgliad bod y nifer mwyaf posibl o bobl 18 oed yn gwireddu eu potensial drwy fynd i brifysgol, ond nad oeddem yn dod â digon o bobl 18 oed i'r man hwnnw, ac mai'r modd i ddelio â hynny oedd buddsoddi mewn addysg blyneddoddedd cynnar. Y buddsoddiad hwnnw, i bob pwrpas, yw Dechrau'n Deg a'r cyfnod sylfaen yr ydym yn cael dadl arnynt heddiw.

Pan ddaeth Jane Davidson, y Gweinidog dros Addysg, Dysgu Gydol Oes a Sgiliau ar y pryd, gerbron y pwyllgor cafodd ei holi droeon faint o arian a oedd ar gael ar gyfer y cyfnod sylfaen. Holwyd hi ynghylch gofalu y byddai'r cymarebau disgybl athro yn cael eu bodloni, gan fod hynny'n gwbl hanfodol; ac fe'i holwyd am y buddsoddiadau cyfalaf yr oedd eu hangen mewn ysgolion i sicrhau y byddai gofynion y cyfnod sylfaen yn cael eu bodloni ym mhob ysgol. Holwyd hi'n benodol ynghylch materion staffio a'r angen i hyfforddi a buddsoddi mewn staff newydd er mwyn darparu'r rhaglen hon. Rhoddwyd sicrwydd i ni bob tro fod yr arian ar gael, bod y cynlluniau ar waith, a bod y Llywodraeth yn ffyddiog y gellid darparu'r cyfnod sylfaen fel y rhagwelwyd. Nid oedd gennym reswm i amau gair y Gweinidog, oherwydd bob tro wrth ei holi yr oedd ei hymateb yn ddiamwys.

Yn awr, fodd bynnag, gofynnir i awdurdodau addysg lleol gyflwyno'r cyfnod sylfaen heb y cyllid y mae arnynt ei angen i'w roi ar waith. Maent yn ei chael yn anodd sicrhau'r cymarebau disgyblion staff angenrheidiol mewn llawer achos. Yr wyf wedi bod mewn nifer o gyfarfodydd o fforymau cyllideb yn fy rhanbarth, ac yr oedd y penaethiaid ysgol yn ddig am fod y cyllid hwn wedi'i gyhoeddi'n hwyr. Teimlent nad oeddem wedi cael digon o amser i baratoi ar gyfer cyflwyno'r cyfnod sylfaen hwn, a phan ddaeth y cyhoeddiad gwelwyd nad oedd ganddynt ddigon o arian i'w gyflwyno ychwaith. Mae hynny'n drist

have to struggle to deliver what the Government requires of them, but for the pupils, because they may well miss out on an opportunity to undertake what is a very good programme of education. They will miss out because the funding is not in place, because there will not be the required pupil-to-teacher ratios and, in many cases, because the schools that are meant to be delivering the foundation phase are not fit for purpose. Many schools will not be able to deliver a large part of the foundation phase because they do not have the necessary play facilities or classroom structure—that is largely because we are trying to deliver a programme for the twenty-first century in schools that were designed in Victorian times. That is a longer-term issue, and it is being addressed as part of investment in schools. However, it is needs to be taken into account in the delivery of this programme. We have to recognise that, unless we get every aspect of this programme right, we will not see the benefits in those children, when they have come through the education system and reached the age of 18, being ready to go on into higher education. As a result, those children will not fulfil their potential. That, Minister, is why this is tragic.

Every time this issue has been raised, we have heard from the Minister, the First Minister, the Minister for Finance and Public Service Delivery, and from everyone else in the Government with whom it has been raised, 'We have put x amount of money into this system. It is a huge amount of money, therefore it is bound to work.' It is a lot of money, but the point is that the programme costs more than you are putting into it. You cannot expect local education authorities to pick up the Government's agenda at a time when their budgets are being slashed, with one of the worst local government settlements in recent years, when they are struggling to make ends meet, with the threat of capping if they go above a 5 per cent increase in council tax, and when they are having to make cuts in many services and when they are struggling, and succeeding in most cases, to protect education from those cuts and from the 1 per cent in efficiency savings that this Government has enforced on local authorities for many years. If you want

nid yn unig i'r ysgolion sy'n gorfod ymdrechu i fodloni gofynion y Llywodraeth, ond hefyd i'r disgyblion, gan ei bod yn ddigon posibl y byddant yn colli cyfle i ddilyn rhaglen addysg sy'n un dda iawn. Byddant yn colli'r cyfle am nad oes cyllid digonol ar gael, am na cheir y cymarebau disgybl athro gofynnol, ac mewn llawer achos am nad yw'r ysgolion sydd i fod i ddarparu'r cyfnod sylfaen yn addas. Mae llawer o ysgolion na fyddant yn gallu darparu rhan helaeth o'r cyfnod sylfaen am nad oes ganddynt y cyfleusterau chwarae neu'r adeiladwaith angenrheidiol yn eu hystafelloedd dosbarth—mae hynny'n bennaf am ein bod yn ceisio darparu rhaglen ar gyfer yr unfed ganrif ar hugain mewn ysgolion a gynlluniwyd yn oes Victoria. Mater ar gyfer y tymor hwy yw hynny, ac ymdrinnir ag ef fel rhan o'r buddsoddi mewn ysgolion. Er hynny, mae angen ei ystyried wrth ddarparu'r rhaglen hon. Rhaid inni gydnabod, oni sicrhawn fod pob agwedd ar y rhaglen hon yn iawn, na welwn y buddion ymysg y plant hynny wedi iddynt ddod drwy'r system addysg a chyrraedd 18 oed, o ran bod yn barod i fynd ymlaen i addysg uwch. Oherwydd hynny, ni fydd y plant hynny'n gwireddu eu potensial. Dyna pam y mae hyn yn drist, Weinidog.

Bob tro pan godwyd y mater hwn, yr ydym wedi clywed y Gweinidog, y Prif Weinidog, y Gweinidog dros Gyllid a Chyflenwi Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus a phawb arall yn y Llywodraeth y codwyd y mater hwn gyda hwy yn dweud, 'Yr ydym wedi rhoi hyn a hyn o arian yn y system hon. Mae'n swm anferth, felly, mae'n sicr o weithio'. Mae'n swm mawr o arian, ond y pwynt yw fod y rhaglen yn costio mwy nag yr ydych yn ei roi ar ei chyfer. Ni allwch ddisgwyl i awdurdodau addysg lleol ddilyn agenda'r Llywodraeth ar adeg o dorri eu cyllidebau, pan gafwyd un o'r setliadau gwaethaf i lywodraeth leol yn y blynyddoedd diwethaf, a hwythau'n ei chael yn anodd cael deupen llinyn ynghyd, gyda'r bygythiad o gapio os bydd cynnydd o fwy na 5 y cant yn eu treth gyngor, a hwythau'n gorfod torri llawer o wasanaethau ac yn ymdrechu, ac yn llwyddo gan mwyaf, i amddiffyn addysg rhag y toriadau hynny a rhag yr 1 y cant o arbedion effeithlonrwydd y mae'r Llywodraeth hon wedi'i orfodi ar awdurdodau lleol am

the foundation phase, you have to pay for it and you have to put in the right amount of money, and I urge you to do so.

flynyddoedd lawer. Os ydych am gael y cyfnod sylfaen, rhaid ichi dalu amdano a rhaid ichi roi'r swm iawn o arian, ac yr wyf yn eich annog i wneud hynny.

4.10 p.m.

Lorraine Barrett: Everyone has five minutes in which to speak, and Members must stick to that time limit or we will not have enough time to include everyone who wishes to speak.

Lorraine Barrett: Mae gan bawb bum munud i siarad, a rhaid i Aelodau gadw at y terfyn amser hwnnw, neu fel arall ni fydd gennym ddigon o amser i gynnwys pawb sy'n dymuno siarad.

Jeff Cuthbert: I assure you that I will stick to five minutes, acting Deputy Presiding Officer.

Jeff Cuthbert: Yr wyf yn eich sicrhau y byddaf yn cadw at bum munud, Ddirprwy Lywydd dros dro.

Education is undoubtedly the greatest weapon that we have to break the link between where you are born and what you can become. That starts with our youngest children. I am convinced and confident that the foundation phase will be our flagship education initiative for our youngest schoolchildren and, so far, it has been welcomed across the board—by professionals, parents and the children themselves. It is therefore imperative that we implement the initiative correctly. That is why I appreciate that the scheme has been implemented in a phased way. That is only right. By implementing the initiative first through pilot schemes and slowly phasing it into the local education areas, not only do we get to tweak the initiative and address teething problems, but also get to see the relative differences that it will make in the LEAs. Indeed, I believe that it would be foolish to introduce the initiative across the board in one fell swoop. After all, we do not want to see a Terminal 5-style disaster in the education system in Wales.

Mae'n sicr mai addysg yw'r arf gorau sydd gennym i dorri'r cysylltiad rhwng man eich geni a'r hyn allwch chi fod. Mae hynny'n dechrau gyda'n plant ieuengaf. Yr wyf yn sicr ac yn ffyddiog mai'r cyfnod sylfaen fydd ein cynllun addysg pwysicaf ar gyfer ein plant ysgol ieuengaf, a hyd yma mae wedi'i groesawu'n gyffredinol—gan weithwyr proffesiynol, gan rieni a chan y plant eu hunain. Mae'n hollbwysig, felly, inni roi'r cynllun ar waith yn gywir. Dyna pam yr wyf yn gwerthfawrogi bod y cynllun wedi'i roi ar waith yn raddol. Mae hynny'n gwbl briodol. Drwy roi'r cynllun ar waith yn gyntaf drwy gynlluniau peilot a'i gyflwyno'n raddol yn yr ardaloedd addysg lleol, byddwn nid yn unig yn gallu gwneud mân newidiadau yn y cynllun a rhoi sylw i broblemau cychwynnol, ond byddwn hefyd yn gallu gweld y gwahaniaethau cymharol a wnaiff yn yr AALlau. Yn wir, credaf mai ffôl fyddai cyflwyno'r cynllun ar unwaith ym mhobman. Wedi'r cwbl, nid ydym am weld trychineb tebyg i drychineb Terfynell 5 yn y system addysg yng Nghymru.

Of those schools and organisations that piloted the foundation phase via Early Start, there were two in the Caerphilly Local Education Authority area: Little Peep's in Oakdale and Pontllanfraith Primary School. Both are in the Islwyn constituency, not in mine, but they are in the Caerphilly borough.

O blith yr ysgolion a'r cyrff hynny a dreialodd y cyfnod sylfaen drwy Dechrau'n Gynnar, yr oedd dwy yn ardal Awdurdod Addysg Lleol Caerffili: Little Peep's yn Oakdale ac Ysgol Gynradd Pontllan-fraith. Mae'r ddwy yn etholaeth Islwyn, nid yn fy etholaeth i, ond maent ym mwrdeistref Caerffili.

While I have been made aware of some concerns among providers, they have on the whole been very encouraged and are anxious

Er fy mod wedi cael gwybod am rai pryderon ymysg darparwyr, maent wedi bod yn frwd iawn at ei gilydd ac yn awyddus i roi'r

to get the scheme fully off the ground. However, it is worrying that some primary schools in my constituency have expressed fears about funding. The headteachers of those schools are keen to introduce the foundation phase: they are not against the scheme or looking for excuses to stay outside the foundation phase. Therefore, although there is much support, this could be undermined by these fears, whether they are real or simply perceived.

With regard to those concerns, Minister, I am pleased to learn that your department will meet with each local authority to establish the exact nature of any difficulties that LEAs and schools have in rolling out the foundation phase. I hope that these meetings, and the subsequent implementation group of key partners that is being established, will resolve, or help to resolve, any and all concerns that LEAs and schools may have. I also look to you, Minister, to address seriously any genuine findings with regard to resource levels.

Eleanor Burnham: I agree with what has been said—Kirsty and Peter commented on this—about the essential nature of this extremely innovative education at an early age. How to get on with other people and how to socialise are basic life skills that are very important in contemporary life. I also understand that there is wide support for this scheme, but, as Jeff has said, there are also issues. There is sufficient evidence on the difference that teaching social behaviour makes that that is not the issue. Clearly, the issue is funding, which illustrates again the lack of credibility that politicians have out there in the big wide world.

I am sure that everyone agrees with the concept, but when you are in the thick of it in education and you know you cannot make it work because the plan has gone astray and you do not have the money to make it work, you are at a hell of a loss as to how to cope. This what we all hear when we talk to headteachers and teachers in these schools.

There are also several little nuances that need

cynllun ar waith yn llawn. Fodd bynnag, mae'n destun gofid bod rhai ysgolion cynradd yn fy etholaeth wedi mynegi ofnau ynghylch cyllid. Mae penaethiaid yr ysgolion hynny'n awyddus i gyflwyno'r cyfnod sylfaen: nid ydynt yn gwrthwynebu'r cynllun nac yn chwilio am esgusion rhag cyflwyno'r cyfnod sylfaen. Felly, er bod llawer o gefnogaeth, gallai gael ei thanseilio gan yr ofnau hyn, p'un a oes sail wirioneddol iddynt ai peidio.

Gyda golwg ar y pryderon hynny, Weinidog, yr wyf yn falch clywed y bydd eich adran yn cwrdd â phob awdurdod lleol i ddarganfod union natur unrhyw anawsterau sydd gan AALLau ac ysgolion wrth roi'r cyfnod sylfaen ar waith. Yr wyf yn gobeithio y bydd y cyfarfodydd hyn, a'r grŵp gweithredu o bartneriaid allweddol a sefydlir wedyn, yn ateb, neu'n helpu ateb, unrhyw bryderon a allai fod gan AALLau ac ysgolion. Yr wyf yn troi atoch chi hefyd, Weinidog, i roi sylw difrifol i unrhyw ddarganfyddiadau gwirioneddol mewn cysylltiad â lefelau adnoddau.

Eleanor Burnham: Cytunaf â'r hyn a ddywedwyd—gwnaeth Kirsty a Peter sylw am hyn—ynghylch natur hanfodol yr addysg eithriadol arloesol hon ar oed cynnar. Mae cymdeithasu a dod ymlaen gyda phobl eraill yn sgiliau byw sylfaenol sy'n bwysig iawn yn y byd sydd ohoni. Deallaf hefyd fod cefnogaeth eang i'r cynllun hwn, ond fel y mae Jeff wedi dweud, mae yna anawsterau hefyd. Mae digon o dystiolaeth i ddangos y gwahaniaeth y mae dysgu ymddygiad cymdeithasol yn ei wneud fel nad oes angen ystyried hynny. Wrth gwrs, y mater pwysig yw cyllid, ac mae hynny'n dangos eto y diffyg hygredd gwleidyddion yn y byd mawr.

Yr wyf yn siŵr fod pawb yn derbyn y cysyniad, ond pan fyddwch yn ei chanol hi mewn addysg ac yn gwybod na allwch fynd â'r maen i'r wal am fod y cynllun wedi mynd ar gyfeiliorn ac am nad oes gennych ddigon o arian i'w roi ar waith, ni fydd gennych syniad sut i ymdopi. Dyna a glywn i gyd wrth siarad â phenaethiaid ac athrawon yn yr ysgolion hyn.

Mae nifer o fanylion bach hefyd y mae angen

to be addressed. There are concerns, for example, about the important role of men in children's early development. Apparently, there is a lack of men in the profession, which means that significant additional capital expenditure is needed. If they are not there, then you must encourage or retrain people to come in from other aspects of life and become teachers. There is a recognised problem in that regard, so money needs to be put into the system.

Credaf hefyd fod gwaith i'w wneud ar ddwyieithrwydd, ac mae angen arian ar gyfer hynny. Mae diffyg arian a darpariaeth o ran y cyfnod sylfaenol, ac mae darparu adnoddau drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg wastad wedi bod yn dipyn o her i lawer o bobl mewn ysgolion. Nid oes digon o athrawon sy'n dysgu drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg, sy'n cadarnhau'r pryder ynghylch sicrhau bod digon o athrawon i ddatblygu'r cyfnod sylfaenol—cyfnod mae pawb yn ei gefnogi.

Bilingualism is a real cause for concern, because, apparently, staff are unclear as to what the expectations are for this area of learning, and they are unsure about whether they should be aiming to make children competent in both language by the time that they are seven years old or whether they should be teaching Welsh as a second language, with lower expectations. Of course, there is also the issue of teaching English to people from elsewhere who come to Wales. I attended a wonderful workshop on that issue that was run very well by Flintshire County Council a few weeks ago. There are many issues, Minister, that need to be addressed. It would be such a terrible shame if this wonderful and innovative foundation phase failed. Therefore, I hope that you open your eyes to see what is in front of you.

Alun Cairns: I have been quite sceptical about the foundation phase, but it is fair to say that I have been won over by it. My son will join this statutory phase and I look forward with excitement to the opportunities that it can bring about. It is also fair to say that it is pretty unprecedented for unions, the Welsh Assembly Government, parents, governors and teachers to be so united in their support of a policy. The evidence that has been provided in the pilot scheme—Jeff

rhoi sylw iddynt. Mae yna bryderon, er enghraifft, ynghylch rôl bwysig dynion yn natblygiad cynnar plant. Mae'n debyg fod prinder dynion yn y proffesiwn, sy'n golygu bod angen gwariant cyfalaf sylweddol ychwanegol. Os nad ydynt ar gael, yna rhaid ichi annog neu ailhyfforddi pobl o feysydd eraill mewn bywyd i fod yn athrawon. Cydnabyddir bod problem yn hyn o beth, felly, rhaid rhoi arian yn y system.

I also believe that there is work to be done on bilingualism, for which funding is required. There is lack of funding and provision for the foundation phase, and the provision of Welsh-medium resources has always been a challenge for many people in schools. There are insufficient teachers to teach through the medium of Welsh, which confirms the concern about ensuring that an adequate supply of teachers is available for the foundation phase, which everyone supports.

Mae dwyieithrwydd yn wir achos pryder, oherwydd yn ôl pob golwg nid yw staff yn sicr beth yw'r disgwyliadau yn y maes dysgu hwn, ac nid ydynt yn siŵr a ddylent fod yn ceisio sicrhau bod plant yn gymwys yn y ddwy iaith erbyn cyrraedd saith oed ynteu a ddylent fod yn addysgu Cymraeg fel ail iaith, gyda disgwyliadau is. Wrth gwrs, mae yna hefyd fater addysgu Saesneg i bobl o fannau eraill sy'n dod i Gymru. Yr oeddwn yn bresennol ychydig wythnosau'n ôl mewn gweithdy ardderchog ar hyn yn cael ei redeg yn effeithiol iawn gan Gyngor Sir y Fflint. Mae llawer o faterion, Weinidog, y mae angen sylw arnynt. Byddai'n drueni mawr petai'r cyfnod sylfaen gwych ac arloesol hwn yn methu. Felly, gobeithio y byddwch yn agor eich llygaid i weld yr hyn sydd o'ch blaen.

Alun Cairns: Yr wyf wedi bod braidd yn amheus o'r cyfnod sylfaen, ond mae'n deg dweud fy mod wedi fy argyhoeddi. Bydd fy mab yn ymuno â'r cyfnod statudol hwn ac yr wyf yn edrych ymlaen yn eiddgar at y cyfleoedd a all ddod yn ei sgil. Mae'n deg dweud ei bod yn beth eithaf anghyffredin i undebau, Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru, rhieni, llywodraethwyr ac athrawon fod mor gytûn yn eu cefnogaeth i bolisi. Mae'r dystiolaeth a gasglwyd yn y cynllun peilot—

mentioned some of the work that has been done—quite clearly shows that the foundation phase offers the opportunity that it was hoped that it would when Jane Davidson announced it in the old Chamber some five years ago. It is difficult to win support across the board on such an issue, particularly when it means such a radical change in teaching practices. Credit must go to the Assembly Government for taking that brave step of introducing this as a pilot policy and testing it to ensure that it realised its objectives.

However, after support has been won for a policy and the legislation has been passed, implementation is key to its successful roll-out throughout Wales. This is, sadly, where the Welsh Assembly Government is failing badly. The Minister's position is quite confused. At the outset, she stated that £107 million was enough, and has repeatedly stated that, in the same way that she used to announce that £1 billion would be provided for the health service; that was also a sum to be introduced over the course of three years. How many times did we hear her say, 'There will be an additional £1 billion for health'? We also remember what happened to waiting lists at that time. Therefore, no-one takes too seriously the figures that the Minister talks about. In that almost famous *Dragon's Eye* interview, the Minister mentioned the figure of £107 million nine times, I believe. I was, therefore, surprised to hear that the Association of Directors of Education in Wales stated that only £40 million of that was new and that it would be spread over three years, rather than one year, which was the impression that was given initially.

4.20 p.m.

From what the Minister said in response to an earlier question today, it seems that there is an active dialogue between the Welsh Assembly Government and the directors of education and headteachers. However, according to a Press Association statement released before the debate, a meeting has taken place today in relation to this so-called dialogue, which was described as a heated exchange, where the Minister again said that

soniodd Jeff am rywfaint o'r gwaith sydd wedi'i wneud—yn dangos yn amlwg bod y cyfnod sylfaen yn cynnig y cyfle yr oeddem yn gobeithio y byddai'n ei gynnig pan gafodd ei gyhoeddi gan Jane Davidson yn yr hen Siambr tua phum mlynedd yn ôl. Mae'n anodd sicrhau cefnogaeth gan bob ochr i rywbeth fel hyn, yn enwedig pan fydd yn golygu newid mor radical mewn arferion addysgu. Rhaid canmol Llywodraeth y Cynulliad am gymryd y cam dewr o gyflwyno hwn fel polisi peilot a rhoi prawf arno i sicrhau ei fod yn cyflawni ei amcanion.

Fodd bynnag, ar ôl ennill cefnogaeth i bolisi a phasio'r ddeddfwriaeth, mae ei weithredu'n allweddol i sicrhau ei fod yn cael ei gyflwyno'n llwyddiannus ymhob rhan o Gymru. Dyna, yn anffodus, ble mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn methu. Mae safbwynt y Gweinidog yn ddryslyd. Ar y dechrau, dywedodd y byddai £107 miliwn yn ddigon, ac mae wedi dweud hynny droeon, fel yr arferai gyhoeddi y byddai £1 biliwn ar gael ar gyfer y gwasanaeth iechyd; yr oedd hwnnw hefyd yn swm a fyddai'n cael ei gyflwyno dros gyfnod o dair blynedd. Sawl gwaith yr ydym wedi ei chlywed yn dweud, 'Bydd £1 biliwn yn ychwanegol ar gael ar gyfer iechyd'? Cofiw'n hefyd yr hyn a ddigwyddodd i restrau aros yn y cyfnod hwnnw. Felly, nid oes neb yn cymryd y ffigurau a ddyfynnir gan y Gweinidog ormod o ddifrif. Yn y cyfweiliad hwnnw ar *Dragon's Eye*, sy'n ymylu ar fod yn enwog, credaf i'r Gweinidog grybwyll y ffigur £107 miliwn naw gwaith. Synnais, felly, o glywed Cymdeithas y Cyfarwyddwyr Addysg yng Nghymru yn dweud mai £40 miliwn yn unig o hwnnw oedd yn newydd ac y byddai ar gael dros dair blynedd, yn hytrach na blwyddyn, sef yr argraff a roddwyd yn y lle cyntaf.

Yn ôl yr hyn a ddywedodd y Gweinidog wrth ateb cwestiwn yn gynharach heddiw, ymddengys fod deialog fyw yn digwydd rhwng Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru a'r cyfarwyddwyr addysg a phenaethiaid. Fodd bynnag, yn ôl datganiad gan y Press Association a ryddhawyd cyn y ddadl, cynhaliwyd cyfarfod heddiw yn ymwneud â'r ddeialog honedig hon, a ddisgrifiwyd fel cyfarfod tanllyd, lle dywedodd y Gweinidog

£107 million is sufficient.

The big question is this: do we listen to the headteachers of the Vale of Glamorgan who are united in their statement that there is insufficient funding to deliver this, or do listen to the Assembly Member for the Vale of Glamorgan? As a parent of a child who will go to a school in the Vale of Glamorgan, I know who I would prefer to believe. Would I believe the united headteachers or would I believe the Minister? I would obviously believe the headteachers, because they are the ones at the sharp end, who have the interests of the children in mind and who know whether they have the capacity to do the work. I was heartened to hear similar worries and concerns expressed by Jeff Cuthbert, and I cannot believe that there are concerns only in Caerphilly, the Vale of Glamorgan, Swansea and Bridgend. We also hear reports from Cardiff. I am sure that headteachers will have raised concerns with every Assembly Member, so it would be nice to hear other Members contributing. I look to Labour's colleagues in Government, and ask Plaid Cymru Members whether they believe that £107 million is sufficient. The big question is whether we believe headteachers from the Minister's constituency or believe the Minister.

Lorraine Barrett: Order. Please wind up, Alun.

Alun Cairns: There are particular difficulties with regard to the Welsh language provision and the shortage and the difficulty in reaching the ratios in that respect.

Lorraine Barrett: Order. Your time is up, Alun.

Janet Ryder: It is good to hear how much support there is for the foundation phase in the Chamber. It is a fundamental change in how we educate and reach young people. It is crucial that children have the ability not only to access and learn knowledge, but also to be taught how to use that knowledge. That is what the foundation phase is all about—equipping children, not only with the knowledge, but with the know-how to use that knowledge, to live socially and educationally and to use that knowledge at an

unwaith eto fod £107 miliwn yn ddigonol.

Y cwestiwn mawr yw hyn: a ddylem wrando ar benaethiaid Bro Morgannwg sy'n unedig yn eu datganiad nad oes digon o arian ar gael i gyflawni hyn, ynteu a ddylem wrando ar yr Aelod Cynulliad dros Fro Morgannwg? Fel tad i blentyn a fydd yn mynd i ysgol ym Mro Morgannwg, gwn pwy fyddwn i'n dewis eu credu. A fyddwn yn credu'r penaeithiaid unedig ynteu a fyddwn yn credu'r Gweinidog? Byddwn yn amlwg yn credu'r penaeithiaid, oherwydd mai hwy sydd yn y rheng flaen, sy'n poeni am fuddiannau'r plant ac sy'n gwybod a oes ganddynt y modd i wneud y gwaith. Cefais fy nghalonogi o glywed ofnau a phryderon tebyg yn cael eu mynegi gan Jeff Cuthbert, ac ni allaf gredu mai yng Nghaerffili, Bro Morgannwg, Abertawe a Phen-y-bont ar Ogwr yn unig y mae pryderon o'r fath wedi eu mynegi. Clywsom adroddiadau o Gaerdydd hefyd. Yr wyf yn siŵr fod penaeithiaid wedi mynegi pryderon wrth bob Aelod Cynulliad, felly byddai'n braf clywed Aelodau eraill yn cyfrannu. Cyfeiriaf at bartneriaid Llafur yn y Llywodraeth, a gofynnaf i Aelodau Plaid Cymru a ydynt yn credu bod £107 miliwn yn ddigonol. Y cwestiwn mawr yw a ydym i gredu penaeithiaid o etholaeth y Gweinidog ynteu'r Gweinidog.

Lorraine Barrett: Trefn. Mae'n bryd dirwyn i ben, Alun.

Alun Cairns: Mae rhai anawsterau penodol ynghlwm wrth y ddarpariaeth Gymraeg a'r prinder a'r anhawster wrth geisio cyrraedd y cymarebau yn y cyswllt hwnnw.

Lorraine Barrett: Trefn. Mae eich amser ar ben, Alun.

Janet Ryder: Mae'n braf clywed bod cymaint o gefnogaeth yn y Siambr i'r cyfnod sylfaen. Mae'n newid sylfaenol yn y ffordd yr ydym yn addysgu ac yn cyrraedd pobl ifanc. Mae'n hanfodol i blant allu nid yn unig gael gwybodaeth a dysgu gwybodaeth, ond eu bod hefyd yn cael eu haddysgu i ddefnyddio'r wybodaeth honno. Dyna yw hanfod y cyfnod sylfaen—arfogi plant, nid â'r wybodaeth yn unig, ond â'r gallu i ddefnyddio'r wybodaeth honno, i fyw yn gymdeithasol ac yn addysgol ac i

early age. That is fundamentally the right way to go.

ddefnyddio'r wybodaeth honno yn gynnar yn eu bywyd. Dyna'n sylfaenol y ffordd orau ymlaen.

*Daeth y Dirprwy Lywydd i'r Gadair am 4.22 p.m.
The Deputy Presiding Officer took the Chair at 4.22 p.m.*

Schools, county councils and everyone else has supported the foundation phase, but I echo the many concerns that have been raised in the Chamber today. When it was being piloted, all of the reports stated that, to succeed, the high level of funding that was being put in at the pilot stage needed to continue. The same has also been said about the Welsh baccalaureate, but it is crucial for the foundation phase, because so many things have to change. Staff have to be retrained, and new staff have to be recruited; doubts have been raised about how staffing needs have been calculated.

Mae ysgolion, cynghorau sir a phawb arall wedi cefnogi'r cyfnod sylfaen, ond ategaf y pryderon niferus a godwyd yn y Siambr heddiw. Pan oedd yn brosiect peilot, dywedai'r holl adroddiadau, os oedd i lwyddo, y byddai angen i'r lefelau cyllido uchel a oedd ar gael yn ystod y cyfnod peilot barhau. Dywedwyd yr un peth am Fagloriaeth Cymru, ond mae'n hanfodol ar gyfer y cyfnod sylfaen, oherwydd rhaid i gynifer o bethau newid. Rhaid i staff gael eu hailhyfforddi, a rhaid recriwtio staff newydd; mae amheuan wedi'u codi ynghylch y modd y mae anghenion staffio wedi eu cyfrifo.

The capital spend is quite large because of the nature of the curriculum that is being offered. Peter Black was right when he said that we are trying to offer a curriculum for today in school buildings that were built two centuries ago, which cannot offer the educational opportunities that we want to offer young children today. We need to have a radical look at that. I urge the Minister to look at the funding of this phase. We cannot afford to let this phase go and we cannot afford to let it be undervalued or implemented wrongly.

Mae'r gwariant cyfalaf yn weddol fawr oherwydd natur y cwricwlwm sy'n cael ei gynnig. Yr oedd Peter Black yn gywir pan ddywedodd ein bod yn ceisio cynnig cwricwlwm ar gyfer heddiw mewn adeiladau ysgol a godwyd ddwy ganrif yn ôl ac sy'n methu cynnig y cyfleoedd addysgol yr ydym am eu cynnig i blant ifanc heddiw. Mae angen inni edrych ar hynny mewn modd radical. Pwysaf ar y Gweinidog i edrych ar y cyllid sydd ar gael ar gyfer y cyfnod hwn. Ni allwn fforddio colli gafael ar y cyfnod hwn, ac ni allwn fforddio peidio â'i werthfawrogi neu ei weithredu'n anghywir.

I also ask her to look at the planning that is needed for the seven to 14 age range. You can revolutionise the curriculum for the younger age group, but if you do not have a new curriculum ready and waiting for those pupils to go into in subsequent years, you will not build on the skills that they have gained and developed in the foundation phase. It is important that the Minister perhaps calls a review group together to look not just at changing the curriculum, but at fundamentally changing the way in which we teach that next age group of children.

Gofynnaf iddi edrych hefyd ar y cynllunio angenrheidiol ar gyfer y grŵp saith i 14 oed. Gallwch chwyldroi'r cwricwlwm ar gyfer y grŵp oed iau, ond os nad oes cwricwlwm newydd yn barod ar gyfer y disgyblion hynny i fynd i'r blynyddoedd nesaf, ni fyddwch yn adeiladu ar y sgiliau y byddant wedi'u dysgu a'u datblygu yn y cyfnod sylfaen. Mae'n bwysig i'r Gweinidog efallai alw grŵp adolygu ynghyd i edrych nid yn unig ar newid y cwricwlwm, ond hefyd ar newid yn sylfaenol ein ffordd o addysgu plant y grŵp oed nesaf.

I would also urge her to look again at how the number of classroom assistants is being calculated. It is an issue that I have raised with her on a number of occasions.

Pwysaf arni hefyd i edrych eto ar y ffordd y mae nifer y cynorthwywyr dosbarth yn cael eu cyfrifo. Mae hwn yn fater yr wyf wedi'i godi gyda hi droeon. Caiff penaethiaid eu

Headteachers are being put into the unenviable situation of having to tell parents whose children have been identified as having additional learning needs, and who have had a classroom assistant to support that additional learning need, that that classroom assistant is now being moved to support the foundation phase. This seems to hinge on how the data is being collected and recorded in the pupil level annual school census. In many areas, a classroom assistant is a generic classroom assistant and no differentiation is made between those put in for additional learning needs and those put in as classroom assistants. That needs to be addressed, because, until that is addressed, children with additional learning needs will not be getting the support that they need and the foundation phase will continue to be understaffed. It comes back to the issue of funding and I can only add my voice to everyone else's in the Chamber and urge the Minister to look again at the funding for this phase.

Michael German: We laid this motion with a sense of sadness, not a sense of trying to score some additional points to get ahead of the game. This is not a game. What is clear today is that there is widespread concern around the Chamber—from Labour, Plaid Cymru, the Conservatives and us—on this issue. It is clear to me that the best way of ensuring that this matter is addressed is to vote for the motion, because it actually says that it is a matter of regret that we are not going to be able to fund it and calls for more funding. That is what we are saying in this motion.

There is universal support for the foundation phase. The Deputy Presiding Officer earlier raised the issue of Newport and I know, from talking to headteachers in Newport, that having to try to meet the aspirations with insufficient money is a great problem for them. They know that they want to implement the scheme, but they cannot do it because they have insufficient funding. As one headteacher put it to me, 'I will do my best with what I have got, but I cannot do the implementation that is required of this vital programme'. It is a wonderful programme—

rhoi yn y sefyllfa anodd o orfod dweud wrth rieni plant sydd ag anghenion addysgol ychwanegol, ac sydd wedi cael cynorthwy-ydd dosbarth i gynorthwyo gyda'r angen addysgol ychwanegol hwnnw, fod y cynorthwy-ydd dosbarth hwnnw yn awr yn cael ei symud i gefnogi'r cyfnod sylfaen. Ymddengys fod hyn yn seiliedig ar y ffordd y mae data'n cael eu casglu a'u cofnodi yn y cyfrifiad ysgol blynyddol o lefelau disgyblion. Mewn llawer ardal mae'r cynorthwy-ydd dosbarth yn gynorthwy-ydd dosbarth generig, ac ni wahaniaethir rhwng y rheini a ddefnyddir ar gyfer anghenion addysgol ychwanegol a'r rheini a ddefnyddir fel cynorthwywyr dosbarth. Mae angen edrych ar hyn, oherwydd nes rhoddir sylw i hyn ni fydd plant ag anghenion addysgol arbennig yn cael y gefnogaeth y mae ei hangen arnynt, a bydd lefelau staffio'r cyfnod sylfaen yn parhau'n rhy isel. Mae hyn eto'n ymwneud â chyllido, ac ychwanegaf fy llais at yr hyn a dywedodd pawb arall yn y Siambr, a phwysaf ar y Gweinidog i edrych eto ar y cyllid sydd ar gael ar gyfer y cyfnod hwn.

Michael German: Cyflwynasom y cynnig hwn gydag ymdeimlad o dristwch, ac nid ymdeimlad o geisio ennill pwyntiau ychwanegol i roi ein'n hunain ar y blaen. Nid gêm yw hyn. Yr hyn sy'n amlwg heddiw yw bod cryn bryder yn y Siambr—ymhlith y Blaid Lafur, Plaid Cymru, y Ceidwadwyr a ninnau—ynghylch y mater hwn. Mae'n amlwg i mi mai'r ffordd orau i sicrhau bod y mater hwn yn cael sylw yw drwy bleidleisio dros y cynnig, oherwydd dywed ein bod yn gresynu na allwn ei ariannu a'n bod yn galw am fwy o arian ar ei gyfer. Dyna yr ydym yn ei ddweud yn y cynnig.

Mae gennym gefnogaeth gyffredinol i'r cyfnod sylfaen. Soniodd y Dirprwy Lywydd yn gynharach am Gasnewydd, ac ar ôl sgwrsio â phenaethiaid yng Nghasnewydd gwn fod ceisio cyflawni'r dyheadau heb arian digonol yn broblem fawr iddynt. Gwyddant eu bod am weithredu'r cynllun, ond ni allant wneud hynny am nad oes ganddynt ddigon o arian. Fel y dywedodd un pennaeth wrthyf, 'Gwnaf fy ngorau â'r hyn sydd ar gael, ond ni allaf weithredu'r rhaglen hollbwysig hon fel sy'n ofynnol.' Mae'n rhaglen ardderchog—yr ydym i gyd yn gytûn ar hynny.

on that we are all agreed.

What will happen is that some schools will be forced to take that money from further up the school or other parts of the school budget, and that is a real worry. I wonder how parents will react to that, when they see the funding for seven, eight, nine and 10-year-olds being taken away to prop up insufficient Government funding.

Jeff Cuthbert: Thank you, Mike, for giving way. I want to make this clear: I have not suggested that there is inadequate funding. I made it very clear that that is certainly the belief among some headteachers that I have spoken to and I have urged the Minister to examine that issue carefully, through her groups, and to address it, if it shown to be a genuine concern. I think that it is important to make that clear.

Michael German: I do not think that you have to look very far, Jeff, to find the answer to the question: you only have to ask all the people who have to implement it. They cannot all be wrong. No matter where you are, in whichever part of Wales, all these headteachers cannot be wrong and they cannot be universally ganging up on you. They are saying that they cannot implement it because they cannot employ enough people. I will come to some of the detail in a moment, but I want to address that fundamental issue first of all.

The First Minister said about the local authorities, when I asked him this question—and I am sorry that he is not here now—that:

‘We agreed to remunerate them based on those figures and then they come to us screaming, ‘Those were the wrong figures’. Why did they give us the figures in the first place? We have to rely on them being able to accurately calculate what the pilot schemes cost and to scale that up for the cost for it to be rolled out in full. We are dependent on accurate figures being supplied to us’.

If that is what he felt, why did he not take notice of those accurate figures that local

Yr hyn a fydd yn digwydd yw y bydd rhai ysgolion yn cael eu gorfodi i gymryd arian o gyfnodau uwch yn yr ysgol neu o rannau eraill o gyllideb yr ysgol, ac mae hynny’n bryder mawr. Tybed sut y bydd rhieni’n ymateb i hynny, pan welant arian ar gyfer disgyblion saith, wyth, naw a deg oed yn cael ei gymryd i ffwrdd i gynnal cyllid annigonol y Llywodraeth.

Jeff Cuthbert: Diolch, Mike, am ildio. Yr wyf am wneud hyn yn gwbl eglur; nid wyf wedi awgrymu nad oes digon o arian ar gael. Yr wyf wedi’i gwneud yn glir iawn mai dyna’n sicr yw barn rhai o’r penaethiaid yr wyf wedi siarad â hwy, ac yr wyf wedi pwysio ar y Gweinidog i edrych yn fanwl ar y mater hwnnw, drwy ei grwpiau, ac i roi sylw iddo, os gwelir ei fod yn achos pryder gwirioneddol. Credaf ei bod yn bwysig gwneud hynny’n glir.

Michael German: Ni chredaf eich bod wedi gorfod edrych ymhell iawn, Jeff, i ddod o hyd i’r ateb i’r cwestiwn: nid oes ond rhaid ichi ofyn i’r holl bobl sy’n gorfod ei weithredu. Ni all pob un ohonynt fod yn anghywir. Nid yw o bwys ym mhle yr ydych chi, ym mha bynnag ran o Gymru, ni all yr holl bennaethiaid hyn fod yn anghywir ac ni allant i gyd fod yn ymuno yn eich erbyn. Maent yn dweud na allant ei weithredu oherwydd nad oes modd iddynt gyflogi digon o bobl. Byddaf yn rhoi rhai o’r manylion yn y munud, ond yr wyf am roi sylw i’r mater sylfaenol hwnnw yn gyntaf.

Dywedodd y Prif Weinidog am yr awdurdodau lleol, pan ofynnais y cwestiwn hwn iddo—ac mae’n edifar gennyf nad yw yma yn awr:

Cytunasom i’w talu ar sail y ffigurau hynny ac yna dânt atom yn sgrechian, ‘Yr oedd y ffigurau hynny’n anghywir’. Pam rhoi’r ffigurau hynny inni yn y lle cyntaf? Rhaid inni ddibynnu arnynt i allu cyfrifo cost y cynlluniau peilot yn gywir a chreu graddfa ar gyfer y gost o dreiglo’r cynllun yn llawn. Yr ydym yn ddibynnol ar gael ffigurau cywir.

Os dyna yr oedd yn ei deimlo, pam na chymerodd sylw o’r ffigurau manwl hynny a

government gave him? I will read to you the local government's side, from 'The Expenditure Sub Group Report 2008/09-2010/11', on the budget that you voted on collectively, earlier this year. It says, on the issue of the foundation phase,

'There are several areas of additional costs that will result from the introduction of the Foundation Phase'.

It then goes on to lists all the additional needs.

'The additional budget required for these is estimated to be £30 million in 2008-09'.

That excludes the continuation of the pilot scheme, the cost of which is obviously on top of that.

4.30 p.m.

The money that you have provided is £15 million. It does not take an ace to work out that there will be insufficient money, because this money will largely go towards the staffing that must be provided. That is why the foundation phase is so good: it increases the number of adults who are in contact with, and work with, children. That is the first problem. Fundamentally, the Government did not listen to local government and it is now facing the consequences, because teachers and headteachers are saying that they cannot work this scheme.

The second issue that I want the Government to respond to is with regard to commitment No. 111 in its delivery plan, which was published last week. That states that the whole programme will be completed within three years. We have heard Minister A talking about four years, but we voted on this last week and commitment No. 111 states that, in 2008, it will be rolled out for three to five-year olds; in 2009, for three to six year-olds; and, in 2010, for three to seven year-olds. That is three years, not four. The Government is trying to mystify me by diverting money from a three-year programme into a four-year programme, and I do not know which side of the Government

roddwyd iddo gan lywodraeth leol? Darllenaf ichi safbwynt llywodraeth leol, o 'Adroddiad yr Is-grŵp Gwariant 2008/09-2010/11', ar y gyllideb y pleidleisioch drosti gyda'ch gilydd, yn gynharach eleni. Meddai ar fater y cyfnod sylfaen,

Mae nifer o agweddau ar gostau ychwanegol a fydd yn deillio yn sgil cyflwyno'r Cyfnod Sylfaen.

Aiff ymlaen wedyn i restru'r holl anghenion ychwanegol.

Amcangyfrifir y bydd y gyllideb ychwanegol angenrheidiol ar gyfer y rhain yn £30 miliwn yn 2008-09.

Nid yw hynny'n cynnwys parhau'r cynllun peilot, ac mae'n amlwg bod cost hwnnw yn ychwanegol at hynny.

Yr ydych wedi darparu £15 miliwn. Nid oes angen bod yn athrylith i gyfrifo na fydd digon o arian, oherwydd bydd yr arian hwn, gan mwyaf, yn mynd tuag at y staff y mae'n rhaid eu darparu. Dyna pam y mae'r cyfnod sylfaen mor dda: mae'n cynyddu nifer yr oedolion sydd mewn cysylltiad â phlant ac yn gweithio gyda hwy. Dyna'r broblem gyntaf. Yn y bôn, wrandawodd y Llywodraeth ar lywodraeth leol, ac mae'n awr yn wynebu'r canlyniadau, oherwydd mae athrawon a phenaethiaid yn dweud na allant wneud i'r cynllun hwn weithio.

Mae'r ail fater yr wyf yn dymuno i'r Llywodraeth ymateb iddo yn ymwneud ag ymrwymiad Rhif 111 yn ei gynllun cyflenwi, a gyhoeddwyd yr wythnos diwethaf. Mae hwnnw'n dweud y bydd y rhaglen gyfan wedi'i chwblhau o fewn tair blynedd. Clywsom Weinidog A yn sôn am bedair blynedd, ond pleidleisiwyd ar hyn gennym yr wythnos diwethaf, ac mae ymrwymiad Rhif 111 yn dweud y bydd, yn 2008, yn cael ei rhoi ar waith fesul cam ar gyfer plant rhwng tair a phump oed; yn 2009, ar gyfer plant rhwng tair a chwech oed; ac yn 2010 ar gyfer plant rhwng tair a saith oed. Mae hynny'n dair blynedd, nid pedair. Mae'r Llywodraeth yn ceisio fy nrysu drwy ddargyfeirio arian o

is speaking on whose behalf in this matter.

raglen tair blynedd i raglen pedair blynedd, ac ni wn pa ochr o'r Llywodraeth sy'n siarad ar ran pwy ar y mater hwn.

If you really want a change, vote for this motion. At least then the right amount of money will be put into the scheme, which will allow it to be properly funded and then we will all be able to celebrate its success.

Os ydych yn wirioneddol am gael newid, pleidleisiwch dros y cynnig hwn. O leiaf wedyn rhoddir y swm priodol o arian ar gyfer y cynllun, a fydd yn caniatáu iddo gael ei gyllido'n briodol. Yna gallwn un ac oll ddathlu ei lwyddiant.

William Graham: This is a most innovative scheme, warmly welcomed by all practitioners in the field, but it may yet be torpedoed by a lack of money from the Government. These children only get one chance, and this scheme is devoted to learning through play, through active involvement in practical activities, enhancing creativity, knowledge, skills and understanding. Those are fine aims. It also aims to ensure personal and social development and wellbeing and to develop language, literacy and communication skills, mathematical development, bilingualism and multi-cultural understanding, knowledge and understanding of the world, physical development and creative development. Those are all noble and laudable aims. We must not squander this opportunity. The children going through this particular phase will have one chance and one chance only.

William Graham: Mae hwn yn gynllun hynod arloesol, ac mae pob ymarferydd yn y maes yn ei groesawu, ond mae'n bosibl y caiff eto ei chwalu gan ddiffyg arian gan y Llywodraeth. Dim ond un cyfle a gaiff y plant hyn, ac mae'r cynllun hwn yn ymroi i ddysgu drwy chwarae, drwy gymryd rhan weithredol mewn gweithgareddau ymarferol, gwella creadigrwydd, gwybodaeth, sgiliau a dealltwriaeth. Mae'r rheini'n nodau clodwiw. Mae hefyd yn anelu at sicrhau datblygiad personol a chymdeithasol a lles, a datblygu iaith, llythrennedd a sgiliau cyfathrebu, datblygiad mathemategol, dwyieithrwydd a dealltwriaeth amlddiwylliannol, gwybodaeth a dealltwriaeth o'r byd, datblygiad corfforol a datblygiad creadigol. Mae'r rhain i gyd yn nodau clodwiw a chanmoladwy. Rhaid inni beidio â gwastraffu'r cyfle hwn. Un cyfle a gaiff y plant sy'n mynd drwy'r cyfnod penodol hwn, ac un cyfle'n unig.

I ask the Minister to reconsider where she will find the money for this. After all, for Government, it is always a question of priorities and choices. This one must not fail.

Gofynnaf i'r Gweinidog ailystyried ble y caiff hi'r arian ar gyfer hyn. Wedi'r cyfan, i Lywodraeth, mae bob amser yn fater o flaenoriaethau a dewisiadau. Rhaid i hon beidio â methu.

I ask you again, Minister, to answer my earlier question on why Newport will have a shortfall of £450,000. You will know that this scheme had an adequate monitoring and evaluation process, as there were pilot schemes throughout Wales, and it is welcomed by all the educational unions, perhaps uniquely so. However, it may yet fail because of you, Minister. I ask you to look at it closely again, with your advisers, and to find the money for this scheme, for the benefit of the children of Wales.

Gofynnaf ichi eto, Weinidog, ateb fy nghwestiwn cynharach, pam y bydd gan Gasnewydd ddiffyg o £450,000. Gwyddoch i'r cynllun hwn gael proses fonitro a gwerthuso ddigonol, gan fod cynlluniau peilot i'w cael ledled Cymru, ac mae'r holl undebau addysgol yn ei groesawu, sydd efallai'n unigryw. Fodd bynnag, gallai fethu eto o'ch herwydd chi, Weinidog. Gofynnaf ichi edrych arno'n ofalus eto, gyda'ch cynghorwyr, a cheisio dod o hyd i'r arian ar gyfer y cynllun hwn, er lles plant Cymru.

Andrew R.T. Davies: I welcome the opportunity to contribute to this debate. As a governor of a small primary school and a

Andrew R.T. Davies: Croesawaf y cyfle i gyfrannu at y ddadl hon. Fel llywodraethwr ysgol gynradd fach a rhiant i bedwar o blant

parent of four young children who have all now passed the age at which they would have benefited from it, I support the merits of the foundation phase, because it is an excellent learning tool that allows young people to develop well.

I have heard everyone speak today, but William Graham's sentiments probably summed it up succinctly, in the two minutes in which he spoke, for most people, because many facts and figures have been thrown around the Chamber, but what a lot of parents want to see is the delivery of the project and of the foundation phase, which has been trumpeted for so long. Clearly, there is something radically wrong when 60 headteachers in the Vale of Glamorgan and 100 or so headteachers in Cardiff unite in saying that not enough money is going into the foundation phase. David Griffiths from Peterston-super-Ely Church in Wales Primary School is prepared to put his name to quotes in the press. As you are the Member for the Vale of Glamorgan, Minister, I am sure that you will be rushing there on Friday to have your photograph taken and appear in the *Glamorgan Gem*, but it will not be much comfort to him when he has to tell parents that he does not have the resources to provide the foundation phase. It is all well and good for you and the First Minister to stand in the Chamber and say that you are having meetings today and next week, but plans must be put in place. Staff cannot be plucked out of thin air and resources cannot be turned around, and buildings of a certain age, as Peter Black highlighted, cannot be changed overnight. We are in the summer term and the foundation phase begins in September. This is a clear fault in leadership. We have had a debate today on the health service, in which the First Minister supported his Minister for health on reforms, when you were in the chair, and he was present during the early part of this debate, no doubt supporting you on what is clearly a failure of your department to deliver. The professionals in the education establishment do not have a problem with the policy and what should provide excellent benefits in terms of children's educational prospects, but they are saying that the resource is not being put in to deliver the project. That cannot be right when we should be offering children the soundest

bach sydd bob un, erbyn hyn, wedi pasio'r oed pan fyddent wedi elwa ohono, cefnogaf rinweddau'r cyfnod sylfaen, oherwydd ei fod yn offeryn dysgu ardderchog sy'n caniatáu i bobl ifanc ddatblygu'n dda.

Yr wyf wedi clywed pawb yn siarad heddiw, ond mae'n debyg mai sylwadau William Graham a grisialodd y darlun orau, yn y ddau funud a gafodd, i'r rhan fwyaf o bobl, oherwydd mae sawl ffaith a ffigur wedi eu taflu o amgylch y Siambr. Ond yr hyn y mae llawer o rieni'n dymuno'i weld yw darparu'r prosiect a'r cyfnod sylfaen sydd wedi cael cymaint o sylw cyhyd. Yn amlwg, mae rhywbeth mawr o'i le pan fydd 60 o benaethiaid ym Mro Morgannwg ac oddeutu 100 o benaethiaid yng Nghaerdydd yn uno i ddweud nad oes digon o arian yn cael ei roi i'r cyfnod sylfaen. Mae David Griffiths o Ysgol Gynradd yr Eglwys yng Nghymru yn Llanbedr-y-fro yn fodlon rhoi ei enw wrth ddyfyniadau yn y wasg. Gan mai chi yw'r Aelod dros Fro Morgannwg, Weinidog, yr wyf yn siŵr y byddwch yn rhuthro yno ddydd Gwener i gael tynnu'ch llun ac ymddangos yn y *Glamorgan Gem*. Ond ni fydd hynny'n llawer o gysur iddo pan fydd yn rhaid iddo ddweud wrth rieni nad yw'r adnoddau ganddo i ddarparu'r cyfnod sylfaen. Digon hawdd i chi a'r Prif Weinidog sefyll yn y Siambr a dweud eich bod yn cael cyfarfodydd heddiw a'r wythnos nesaf, ond rhaid rhoi cynlluniau ar waith. Ni ellir gwneud i athrawon ymddangos o unlle, ac ni ellir troi adnoddau o gwmpas, ac ni ellir newid adeiladau o oed penodol dros nos, fel y pwysleisiodd Peter Black. Mae hi'n awr yn dymor yr haf ac mae'r cyfnod sylfaen yn dechrau ym mis Medi. Mae hyn yn fai amlwg mewn arweinyddiaeth. Cawsom ddadl heddiw ar y gwasanaeth iechyd, lle cefnogodd y Prif Weinidog ei Weinidog dros iechyd gyda diwygiadau, pan oeddech chi yn y gadair, ac yr oedd yn bresennol yn rhan gyntaf y ddadl hon, yn ddi-os yn eich cefnogi ynghylch rhywbeth sy'n amlwg yn fethiant ar ran eich adran i'w ddarparu. Nid oes gan y gweithwyr proffesiynol yn y sefydliad addysg unrhyw broblem gyda'r polisi a'r hyn a ddylai sicrhau budd rhagorol o ran rhagolygon addysgol plant. Ond dywedant nad yw'r adnoddau'n cael eu rhyddhau i ddarparu'r prosiect. Sut gall hynny fod yn

basis for their educational career at the earliest stage.

We have had a debate on anti-social behaviour today, which is often talked about. The earlier we get in on anti-social measures, the better. Surely the foundation phase, providing the best elements of education for young people, is a good way to put people on the right path in life. I urge you, as a parent and a governor, to look at this as a matter of urgency to ensure that the children of the Vale of Glamorgan and Wales are not let down, because the ball is in your court. However, it looks as if you will drop it and that the foundation phase will be found sadly wanting.

The Minister for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills (Jane Hutt):

The good thing about this debate is that every speaker has been supportive of the pioneering foundation phase. The One Wales Government is promoting the pioneering foundation phase, and Members' support joins that from professionals, parents and children themselves—you can see how they are benefiting in the pilot schools. You are also endorsing a programme that will deliver, as Jeff said, improved standards of achievement for our youngest learners and enhanced positive attitudes to learning. It will lead to a reduction in disaffection and it will give children the will to learn and a love of learning at that early stage. It will ensure a better skilled and motivated workforce and will develop our young people as lifelong learners.

I thank Peter for referring back to Professor Teresa Rees's review, which gave a clear and strong recommendation that we should invest in early years education, and that is what we are doing. It is a programme that draws on the best international evidence of what works. I value the power, strength and backing that I have received from across the Assembly in this debate, endorsing the One Wales Welsh Assembly Government in taking this forward.

Alun Cairns: Will you take an intervention?

Jane Hutt: I will come back to you in a

iawn pan ddylem fod yn cynnig y sylfaen gadarnaf i blant ar gyfer eu gyrfa addysgol mor gynnar â phosibl.

Cawsom ddadl heddiw ar ymddygiad gwrthgymdeithasol, pwnc a drafodir yn aml. Gorau po gyntaf y cawn ddylanwadu ar fesurau gwrthgymdeithasol. Onid yw'r cyfnod sylfaen, sy'n rhoi elfennau gorau addysg i bobl ifanc, yn ffordd dda i roi pobl ar ben y ffordd mewn bywyd? Fe'ch anogaf, fel tad ac fel llywodraethwr, i ystyried hyn ar frys i sicrhau na fydd plant Bro Morgannwg a Chymru yn cael eu siomi, oherwydd mae'r grym yn eich dwylo chi. Fodd bynnag, mae'n ymddangos nad ydych am ei ddefnyddio ac y bydd y cyfnod sylfaen yn ddiffygiol.

Y Gweinidog dros Blant, Addysg, Dysgu Gydol Oes a Sgiliau (Jane Hutt):

Y peth da am y ddadl hon yw bod pob siaradwr wedi cefnogi'r cyfnod sylfaen arloesol. Mae Llywodraeth Cymru'n Un yn hyrwyddo'r cyfnod sylfaen arloesol, ac mae cefnogaeth Aelodau'n ategu cefnogaeth gweithwyr proffesiynol, rhieni a'r plant eu hunain—gallwch weld sut maent yn elwa yn yr ysgolion peilot. Yr ydych hefyd yn cymeradwyo rhaglen a fydd, fel y dywedodd Jeff, yn darparu gwell safonau cyflawni ymhlith ein dysgwyr ieuengaf ac agweddau mwy cadarnhaol at ddysgu. Bydd yn arwain at leihau dadrithio ac yn rhoi i blant yr ewyllys i ddysgu a chariad at ddysgu yn y cyfnod cynnar hwnnw. Bydd yn sicrhau gweithlu mwy sgilgar ac ysgogol, ac yn datblygu ein pobl ifanc fel dysgwyr gydol oes.

Diolch i Peter am gyfeirio'n ôl at adolygiad yr Athro Teresa Rees, a wnaeth argymhelliad clir a chadarn y dylem fuddsoddi yn addysg y blynyddoedd cynnar, a dyna'r ydym yn ei wneud. Mae'n rhaglen sy'n tynnu ar y dystiolaeth ryngwladol orau o'r hyn sy'n gweithio. Yr wyf yn gwerthfawrogi'r pŵer, y cryfder a'r gefnogaeth a gefais ar draws y Cynulliad yn y ddadl hon, yn cymeradwyo Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru Cymru'n Un gyda gweithredu hyn.

Alun Cairns: A dderbyniwch ymyriad?

Jane Hutt: Dof yn ôl atoch ymhen munud.

minute.

The foundation phase is a new approach to learning for three to seven-year-olds, and it has been designed to give children the best possible start and opportunities to learn. It is a curriculum that provides a progressive framework that spans four years, between the ages of three and seven. It is about meeting the diverse needs of all children, and it recognises that each stage of the child's learning development is critical. It does not just focus on age-related outcomes to be achieved—and I pay tribute to William's contribution—it includes child-initiated, structured play, experiential learning and the child's active involvement in their learning.

Alun Cairns: I am grateful to the Minister for taking the intervention. I recognise the united support, across the Chamber, for the foundation phase that she has commented on, but does she also recognise the real worry that was also spoken about in unity, namely that there is insufficient funding for the programme at the moment?

Jane Hutt: I was about to make a point about the substantial investment in the foundation phase, and for that we need to go back to 2004. I appreciate the work that my predecessor, Jane Davidson, did in pioneering this, and I also pay tribute to Rosemary Butler, who was also Minister for education in the early years of the Assembly. Since 2004, we have substantially invested in the foundation phase, because, as everyone said, we had to get the piloting right.

4.40 p.m.

Since 2004, it has been trialled in 84 pilot schools and early years settings. We have trained 740 support assistants to work in Welsh-medium settings—to address one of the points made today by Eleanor—we have developed a national training pack for all practitioners; we funded a foundation phase training and support officer in each local authority in Wales; and we have evaluated the preparatory work for roll-out to ensure that the foundation phase is fit for purpose.

Mae'r cyfnod sylfaen yn agwedd newydd at ddysgu ar gyfer plant rhwng tair a saith oed, ac fe'i cynlluniwyd i roi i blant y cychwyn a'r cyfleoedd gorau posibl i ddysgu. Mae'n gwricwlwm sy'n darparu fframwaith cynyddol sy'n rhychwantu pedair blynedd, rhwng tair a saith oed. Mae'n ymwneud â diwallu anghenion amrywiol pob plentyn, ac mae'n cydnabod bod pob cyfnod yn natblygiad dysgu'r plentyn yn hollbwysig. Nid yw'n canolbwyntio ar sicrhau canlyniadau sy'n benodol i oed yn unig—a rhof deyrnged i gyfraniad William Graham—mae'n cynnwys chwarae strwythuredig wedi'i sbarduno gan y plentyn, dysgu drwy brofiad ac ymwneud gweithredol y plentyn yn ei ddysgu.

Alun Cairns: Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar i'r Gweinidog am dderbyn ymyriad. Yr wyf yn cydnabod y gefnogaeth unedig, ar draws y Siambr, i'r cyfnod sylfaen y mae wedi rhoi sylwadau arno, ond a yw hi hefyd yn cydnabod y gofid gwirioneddol y cyfeiriwyd ato lawn mor unedig, sef nad cyllid digonol ar gyfer y rhaglen ar hyn o bryd?

Jane Hutt: Yr oeddwn ar fin gwneud sylw am y buddsoddiad sylweddol yn y cyfnod sylfaen, ac ar gyfer hynny mae angen inni fynd yn ôl i 2004. Yr wyf yn gwerthfawrogi'r gwaith a wnaeth fy rhagflaenydd, Jane Davidson, yn arloesi hyn, a rhof deyrnged hefyd i Rosemary Butler, a oedd hefyd yn Weinidog dros Addysg ym mlynnyddoedd cynnar y Cynulliad. Er 2004, yr ydym wedi buddsoddi'n helaeth yn y cyfnod sylfaen oherwydd, fel y dywedodd pawb, yr oedd yn rhaid cael y cynlluniau peilot yn iawn.

Er 2004, fe'i treialwyd mewn 84 o ysgolion peilot a lleoliadau blynyddoedd cynnar. Yr ydym wedi hyfforddi 740 o gynorthwywyr cefnogi i weithio mewn lleoliadau cyfrwng Cymraeg—i fynd i'r afael ag un o'r pwyntiau a godwyd heddiw gan Eleanor—yr ydym wedi datblygu pecyn hyfforddi cenedlaethol ar gyfer pob ymarferydd; cyllidwyd swyddog hyfforddi a chefnogi cyfnod sylfaen ym mhob awdurdod lleol yng Nghymru; a gwerthuswyd y gwaith paratoi ar gyfer rhoi'r

All of this work has been done in close co-operation with local authorities, schools, early years providers, training providers and the teaching profession.

Kirsty Williams: You re-define the art of grasping at straws. It is almost as if you are in absolute denial. We have had almost five minutes of you telling us how wonderful things are. You are saying how wonderful the pilot schemes are, but the money with which you expect the rest of Wales to implement the scheme bears no resemblance to the money that you made available for those pilot schemes. Those schools that piloted the scheme are now telling us that their money is being slashed and that they are sacking staff in Pembrokeshire and in other places—the people who have been working in the pilot schemes—because of the money that you have come up with. You are almost delusional in your interpretation of what is going on.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Order. This is turning into a speech.

Jane Hutt: It is difficult for Kirsty Williams to be constructive in opposition. We know that. It is difficult for her to do anything except undermine what she acknowledged at the beginning of her contribution to be one of the most pioneering schemes for education in Wales.

However, I am much more interested in what Professor Iram Siraj-Blatchford has done. [*Interruption.*] You seem to want to laugh at the person who has fully monitored and evaluated the pilot programme from the Institute of Education of the University of London. Professor Blatchford has worked with us through the preparation. Your motion is about preparation planning, and that is what I am responding to, Kirsty. Preparation planning has not started today; it goes back to 2004. Professor Blatchford has had an input in terms of the national project management group and the ministerial group's early years education care panel, and she has made evaluations at that top level. This is international evidence that we are bringing to

rhaglen ar waith fesul cam er mwyn sicrhau bod y cyfnod sylfaen yn addas at y diben. Gwnaethpwyd yr holl waith hwn mewn cydweithrediad agos ag awdurdodau lleol, ysgolion, darparwyr blynyddoedd cynnar, darparwyr hyfforddiant a'r proffesiwn addysgu.

Kirsty Williams: Yr ydych yn ail-ddiffinio'r grefft o gydio mewn gwellt. Yr ydych fel petaech yn ymwadu'n llwyr. Yr ydym wedi cael bron i bum munud ohonoch yn dweud wrthym mor wych yw pethau. Yr ydych yn dweud mor ardderchog yw'r cynlluniau peilot, ond nid yw'r arian y disgwylwch i weddill Cymru ei ddefnyddio i weithredu'r cynllun yn agos at yr arian a roesoch i'r cynlluniau peilot hynny. Mae'r ysgolion hynny a dreialodd y cynllun yn awr yn dweud wrthym fod eu harian yn cael ei docio a'u bod yn diswyddo staff yn sir Benfro ac mewn lleoedd eraill—y bobl a fu'n gweithio yn y cynlluniau peilot—oherwydd yr arian yr ydych wedi'i gynnig. Yr ydych bron yn twyllo'ch hun gyda'ch dehongliad o'r hyn sy'n digwydd.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Trefn. Mae hyn yn troi'n araith.

Jane Hutt: Mae'n anodd i Kirsty Williams fod yn adeiladol wrth wrthwynebu. Gwyddom hynny. Mae'n anodd iddi wneud dim heblaw taseilio'r hyn a gydnabu ar ddechrau ei chyfraniad yn un o'r cynlluniau mwyaf arloesol ar gyfer addysg yng Nghymru.

Fodd bynnag, mae gennyf lawer mwy o ddiddordeb yn yr hyn a wnaeth yr Athro Iram Siraj-Blatchford. [*Torri ar draws.*] Yr ydych fel petaech am chwerthin am ben y person sydd wedi monitro a gwerthuso'r rhaglen beilot yn llawn o Sefydliad Addysg Prifysgol Llundain. Mae'r Athro Blatchford wedi gweithio gyda ni drwy'r paratoadau. Mae eich cynnig yn ymwneud â chynllunio paratoadau, a dyna'r wyf yn ymateb iddo, Kirsty. Nid heddiw y dechreuodd cynllunio'r paratoadau; mae'n mynd yn ôl i 2004. Mae'r Athro Blatchford wedi cyfrannu ar ffurf y grŵp cenedlaethol rheoli prosiect a'r panel gofal addysg blynyddoedd cynnar gan y grŵp gweinidogion, ac mae wedi gwneud gwerthusiadau ar y lefel uchaf honno. Mae

Wales. Do not shun that evidence in terms of this being taken forward. This is about how we plan and prepare.

I will get on to the money and where we are going, but I want to return to the important point that Mike made. The 'One Wales' delivery plan is clear that we will achieve a phased roll-out from September 2008 for 3 to 5-year-olds, September 2009 for 6-year-olds, and September 2010 for 7-year-olds. That is what the 'One Wales' delivery plan states. We are providing substantial funding to support this phased roll-out. It is a specific grant of £107 million that will go to local authorities. It is explicitly designed to meet our 'One Wales' commitment to reduce class sizes for our 3 to 7-year-olds radically.

I said earlier, in response to a question about this, that if we are introducing something as far-reaching and innovative as the foundation phase, it is bound to have its challenges. We have to remember that this is about delivering it in partnership with local government and, likewise, for local government, it is about local government delivering it in partnership with their schools. Of course there will be challenges. When we started on the policy of reducing primary school class sizes to 30 pupils, many schools and local authorities said that it could not be done. However, it was done. When we started on the teacher workforce re-modelling, there were many sceptics on the subjects of the changes bedding in and the benefits to teachers, pupils and schools. Every major innovation involves fundamental change, which throws up challenges. I have no problem with the scrutiny today. I do not worry about your scrutiny, but I want to ensure that you are constructive, if you back the foundation phase, and recognise that we have put that extra £107 million in when we have an extremely tight budget.

It is important to put the record straight on how we get those figures. The model that we use to project additional staff numbers required is based on pupil level annual school

hyn yn dystiolaeth ryngwladol yr ydym yn ei rhoi i Gymru. Peidiwch ag anwybyddu'r dystiolaeth honno yng nghyswllt gweithredu hyn. Mae hyn yn ymwneud â'r ffordd yr ydym yn cynllunio ac yn paratoi.

Soniaf maes o law am yr arian a ble'r ydym yn mynd, ond hoffwn ddychwelyd at y pwynt pwysig a wnaeth Mike. Mae cynllun darparu 'Cymru'n Un' yn glir y byddwn yn rhoi'r rhaglen ar waith fesul cam o Fedi 2008 ar gyfer plant rhwng 3 a 5 oed, Medi 2009 ar gyfer plant 6 oed, a Medi 2010 ar gyfer plant 7 oed. Dyna y mae cynllun darparu 'Cymru'n Un' yn ei ddweud. Yr ydym yn darparu cyllid sylweddol i gefnogi'r broses hon o'i roi ar waith fesul cam. Grant penodol ydyw o £107 miliwn a roir i awdurdodau lleol. Fe'i cynlluniwyd yn benodol i gyflawni ein hymrwymiad yn 'Cymru'n Un' i leihau maint dosbarthiadau ein plant 3 i 7 oed yn sylfaenol.

Dywedais yn gynharach, wrth ateb cwestiwn ar hyn, os ydym yn cyflwyno rhywbeth mor bellgyrhaeddol ac arloesol â'r cyfnod sylfaen, fod heriau'n sicr o ddilyn. Rhaid inni gofio bod hyn yn ymwneud â'i ddarparu mewn partneriaeth â llywodraeth leol, ac yn yr un modd, ar gyfer llywodraeth leol, mae'n ymwneud â llywodraeth leol yn ei ddarparu mewn partneriaeth â'u hysgolion. Wrth gwrs bydd heriau. Pan ddechreusom y polisi o leihau maint dosbarthiadau ysgolion cynradd i 30 o ddisgyblion, dywedodd sawl ysgol ac awdurdod lleol na ellid gwneud hynny. Fodd bynnag, fe'i gwnaethpwyd. Pan ddechreusom ail-fodelu'r gweithlu athrawon, yr oedd sawl un yn amheus am bynciau'r newidiadau yn ymwreiddio a'r manteision i athrawon, disgyblion ac ysgolion. Mae pob cynllun arloesol yn golygu newid sylfaenol, sy'n esgor ar heriau. Nid wyf yn pryderu am y craffu heddiw. Nid wyf yn poeni am eich craffu, ond yr wyf am sicrhau eich bod yn adeiladol, os ydych yn cefnogi'r cyfnod sylfaen, ac yn cydnabod ein bod wedi ychwanegu'r £107 miliwn ychwanegol hwnnw pan fo gennym gyllideb arbennig o dynn.

Mae'n bwysig cywiro'r darlun ynglŷn â'r ffordd y cawn y ffigurau hynny. Mae'r model a ddefnyddiwn i amcanestyn nifer y staff ychwanegol angenrheidiol yn seiliedig ar

census figures, which is an electronic collection of pupil-and-school-level data provided by all schools in the maintained sector in January each year. Schools provide that data. That is where we got our information from. Our projections were made public in 2007; they were quoted by the Welsh Local Government Association in its expenditure report, and they informed the Assembly Government's budget proposal. I am now working with my officials—*[Interruption.]* Deputy Presiding Officer, it is very important that the Assembly and the public hear this. Through my officials, I am working with every local authority to ensure that we can deliver the roll-out from September, as per the commitment in the 'One Wales' document. If we are to show that the Assembly backs the foundation phase and will work with me constructively to roll it out from September 2008 with our partners in local government, our schools and our teaching unions, with whom I am working—

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Order. You really must wind up, Minister.

Jane Hutt: If we are to show that, Members must reject this motion and back the steps that I am taking to get this roll-out right.

Jenny Randerson: I have had a sense of 'Groundhog Day' over the past few minutes as I have listened to the Minister Jane Hutt talking with increasing desperation, which is a scenario that, sadly, we became all too used to when she was the Minister for Health and Social Services. We have not seen it lately. I think that it is a sign of how much trouble the Government is in over this policy.

The first signs of trouble came in the draft budget, because, as you will remember, the original draft budget allocated even less to this policy than what we ended up with. That was a symptom of its having been forgotten about in the whole process; it was added on at the end and given the money that was left over. One is always a little worried when

fffigurau cyfrifiad ysgolion blynyddol o lefel disgyblion, sef casgliad electronig o data lefel-disgybl-ac-ysgol a ddarperir gan bob ysgol yn y sector a gynhelir ym mis Ionawr bob blwyddyn. Ysgolion sy'n darparu'r data hynny. Dyna ble y daeth ein gwybodaeth. Gwnaethpwyd ein hamcanestyniadau yn gyhoeddus yn 2007; cawsant eu dyfynnu gan Gymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru yn ei hadroddiad gwariant, ac yr oeddent yn sail i gynig Llywodraeth y Cynulliad ar gyfer y gyllideb. Yr wyf yn gweithio gyda'm swyddogion yn awr—*[Torri ar draws.]* Ddirprwy Lywydd, mae'n bwysig iawn i'r Cynulliad a'r cyhoedd glywed hyn. Yr wyf yn gweithio gyda phob awdurdod lleol, drwy fy swyddogion, i sicrhau ein bod yn gallu cyflwyno'r cyfnod sylfaen o fis Medi ymlaen, yn unol â'r ymrwymiad yn y ddogfen 'Cymru'n Un'. Os ydym am ddangos bod y Cynulliad yn cefnogi'r cyfnod sylfaen, ac y bydd yn gweithio gyda mi mewn modd adeiladol er mwyn ei gyflwyno o Fedi 2008 ymlaen gyda'n partneriaid mewn llywodraeth leol, ein hysgolion a'r undebau athrawon, yr wyf yn gweithio gyda hwy—

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Trefn. O ddifrif, Weinidog, rhaid ichi ddirwyn eich araith i ben.

Jane Hutt: Os ydym am ddangos hynny, rhaid i'r Aelodau wrthod y cynnig hwn a chefnogi'r camau yr wyf yn eu cymryd er mwyn cyflwyno'r cyfnod sylfaen yn iawn.

Jenny Randerson: Yr oedd gwranddo ar anobaith cynyddol y Gweinidog, Jane Hutt, yn ystod yr ychydig funudau diwethaf yn fy atgoffa o 'Groundhog Day'. Daethom yn gyfarwydd iawn â hyn, yn anffodus, yn ystod ei chyfnod fel Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol. Nid ydym wedi gweld hyn yn ddiweddar. Credaf fod hyn yn dangos cymaint o broblemau sydd gan y Llywodraeth gyda'r polisi hwn.

Gwelwyd yr arwyddion cyntaf fod problemau gyda'r polisi hwn yn y gyllideb ddrafft oherwydd, fel y cofiwch, yr oedd y dyraniad i'r polisi hwn yn y gyllideb ddrafft wreiddiol yn llai hyd yn oed nag a gawsom yn y diwedd. Yr oedd hynny'n arwydd bod y polisi wedi ei anghofio yn y holl broses; cafodd ei ychwanegu ar y diwedd a

there a significant increase from one stage of the budget to the next for something that started off in such deep trouble.

I realised that it was in deep trouble when I attended the governors' meeting of the primary school where I am a governor on the night that the draft budget was produced. The headteacher reacted with disbelief at the amount of money being allocated across Wales. There is one key issue, which is that there is insufficient funding to deliver the ratio of 1:8 that is required in 2008-09, and insufficient money to roll it forward and meet the requirements in subsequent years. That is because the analysis has been done taking no or insufficient account of such arrangements as staff working with specific pupils with special educational needs and staff working to other grant initiatives, such as the raising attainment and individual standards in education in Wales grant. We cannot have a situation where staff who are working on a one-to-one basis with pupils with special educational needs are taken away so that they can be allocated to the foundation phase project. That is completely inadequate and unacceptable by anyone's standards. The PLASC figures are fundamentally flawed in that regard.

Janet Ryder: I suggest that it is not so much the figures that are flawed as the way in which the information is collected. The figures should be collected in a way that differentiates between staff, so that classroom assistants are not all classed as one group of people. There are classroom assistants doing different kinds of work, and those who support additional learning needs should be allocated as classroom assistants for that task and not seen as part of the general pot.

Jenny Randerson: I agree with you totally, Janet, because the PLASC returns and the population data used to calculate how many classroom assistants were needed included in its base additional support and one-to-one tuition. That was misleading, and, fundamentally, that is where the problem originates.

rhoddwyd iddo'r arian a oedd dros ben. Byddaf braidd yn bryderus bob amser pan welaf gynnydd sylweddol o'r naill gyllideb i'r llall ar gyfer rhywbeth a ddechreuodd gyda phroblemau mawr.

Sylweddolais fod problemau mawr pan fûm mewn cyfarfod o lywodraethwyr yr ysgol gynradd yr wyf yn aelod o'i chorff llywodraethu, y noson y cyhoeddwyd y gyllideb ddrafft. Ni allai'r pennaeth gredu cyn lleied o arian a ddyrannwyd ar gyfer Cymru gyfan. Mae yna un broblem allweddol, sef nad oes arian digonol i wireddu'r gymhareb o 1:8 sy'n ofynnol yn 2008-09, nac arian digonol ychwaith i'w gyflwyno a bodloni'r gofynion yn ystod y blynyddoedd dilynol. Y rheswm am hynny yw bod y dadansoddiad wedi ei wneud heb roi ystyriaeth ddigonol, os o gwbl, i drefniadau megis staff sy'n gweithio gyda disgyblion penodol sydd ag anghenion addysgol arbennig, a staff sy'n gweithio dan gynlluniau grant eraill, fel y grant codi cyrhaeddiad a safonau addysgol unigolion yng Nghymru. Ni allwn gael sefyllfa lle mae staff sy'n gweithio gyda disgyblion unigol sydd ag anghenion addysgol arbennig yn cael eu cymryd i ffwrdd er mwyn eu dyrannu i brosiect y cyfnod sylfaen. Mae hynny'n gwbl annigonol, ac yn annerbyniol yn ôl safonau unrhyw un. Mae'r ffigurau CYBLD yn sylfaenol ddiffygiol yn y cyswllt hwnnw.

Janet Ryder: Awgrymaf nad y ffigurau sy'n ddiffygiol, ond yn hytrach y ffordd y cesglir y wybodaeth. Dylai'r ffigurau gael eu casglu mewn ffordd sy'n gwahaniaethu rhwng staff, fel nad yw'r holl gynorthwywyr ystafell ddosbarth yn cael eu dosbarthu fel un grŵp o bobl. Mae cynorthwywyr ystafell ddosbarth yn gwneud gwahanol fathau o waith, a dylai'r rheini sy'n cefnogi anghenion dysgu ychwanegol gael eu dynodi fel cynorthwywyr ystafell ddosbarth ar gyfer y dasg honno, nid fel rhan o'r gronfa gyffredinol.

Jenny Randerson: Yr wyf yn cytuno'n llwyr â chi, Janet, oherwydd yr oedd y wybodaeth sylfaenol ar gyfer y ffurflenni CYBLD a'r data poblogaeth a ddefnyddiwyd i gyfrif faint o gynorthwywyr ystafell ddosbarth yr oedd eu hangen yn cynnwys cymorth ychwanegol a hyfforddiant un i un. Yr oedd hynny'n gamarweiniol, ac yn y bôn dyna yw gwraidd

y problem.

4.50 p.m.

Turning to the actual figures, there is talk of £107 million over three years. However, only £41 million of additional funding will find its way to local authorities. Only three years' funding has been made available, but we are now told that this is a four-year programme. If you look at the shortfalls, you will see that, in Cardiff, it is £1.6 million; in Powys, it is £1 million; in Ceredigion, it is £880,000; in Bridgend, it is £800,000; in Swansea, it is £720,000; in Flintshire, it is £560,000; in Newport, it is £450,000; and in Wrexham, it is £440,000. My fellow Assembly Members, there is a problem coming to a school near you. This is not something that will only happen in some local authorities.

Huw Lewis: I have been listening carefully to what you have said, but it is becoming increasingly hard work to listen, on the one hand, to a Minister who has tough decisions to make and represents an administration that has made record investment in education in Wales, and, on the other hand, to a Liberal Democrat representative who talks about the Liberal Democrat record on education in Cardiff, of all places, as a model that we should emulate.

Jenny Randerson: I am delighted to have the opportunity to respond on the issue of the Liberal Democrat record on funding education in Cardiff. When we took over four years ago, Cardiff was, per pupil, the lowest funded local authority in Wales, and it is now well above average. Thank you so much, Huw, for giving me that opportunity.

To conclude, I could not have put it better than Jeff Cuthbert did. He was absolutely right: school governors are not against this policy, the teachers are not against it, and the Liberal Democrats are certainly not against it, and neither, I gather, are my other political colleagues. Seven years ago, when it was first

I droi at y ffigurau eu hunain, mae sôn am £107 miliwn dros dair blynedd. Fodd bynnag, dim ond £41 miliwn o arian ychwanegol a fydd yn cyrraedd yr awdurdodau lleol. Arian am dair blynedd yn unig sydd wedi'i ryddhau, ond dywedir wrthym yn awr fod hon yn rhaglen pedair blynedd. Os edrychwch ar y diffygion, gwelwch fod diffyg o £1.6 miliwn yng Nghaerdydd; £1 filiwn ym Mhowys; £880,000 yng Ngheredigion; £800,000 ym Mhen-y-bont ar Ogwr; £720,000 yn Abertawe; £560,000 yn sir y Fflint; £450,000 yng Nghasnewydd; a £440,000 yn Wrecsam. Gyd-Aelodau Cynulliad, bydd ysgol sy'n agos atoch chi yn wynebu problem. Nid rhywbeth a fydd yn digwydd mewn rhai awdurdodau lleol yn unig yw hyn.

Huw Lewis: Yr wyf wedi gwrando'n astud ar yr hyn a ddywedwyd gennych, ond mae'n mynd yn fwyfwy anodd imi wrando, ar y naill law, ar Weinidog sydd â phenderfyniadau anodd i'w gwneud ac sy'n cynrychioli gweinyddiaeth sydd wedi buddsoddi mwy nag erioed mewn addysg yng Nghymru, ac ar y llaw arall ar gynrychiolydd y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol sy'n siarad am yr hyn y mae'r Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol wedi'i gyflawni ym maes addysg yng Nghaerdydd, o bobman, fel esiampl y dylem ei hefelychu.

Jenny Randerson: Yr wyf yn falch iawn cael cyfle i ymateb ar fater record y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol ym maes cyllido addysg yng Nghaerdydd. Pan gymerasom yr awenau bedair blynedd yn ôl, Caerdydd oedd yr awdurdod lleol â'r cyllid isaf, fesul disgybl, yng Nghymru, ond erbyn hyn mae lawer yn uwch na'r cyfartaledd. Diolch yn fawr iawn ichi, Huw, am roi'r cyfle hwnnw imi.

I gloi, ni allwn fod wedi rhoi darlun cliriach nag a roddwyd gan Jeff Cuthbert. Yr oedd yn llygad ei le: nid yw llywodraethwyr ysgolion yn erbyn y polisi hwn, nid yw'r athrawon yn ei erbyn, ac nid yw'r Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol yn sicr yn ei erbyn, mwy nag yw fy nghyd-Aelodau gwleidyddol eraill, hyd

investigated by the old Pre-16 Education Committee, I was extremely supportive of this policy, but I fear that the Minister is about to grasp defeat from the jaws of victory.

Jeff Cuthbert: Will you give way?

Jenny Randerson: I am sorry, I cannot take another intervention; the Deputy Presiding Officer will not be that indulgent.

The Minister is about to grasp dissension from the jaws of complete agreement across the Chamber. It is a common problem: the Welsh Assembly Government introduces a new initiative, which it underfunds, and local authorities are expected to pick up the tab. However, this time, the local government settlement was too low for that to happen and the size of the funding gap involved is far too high.

The eyes of the rest of the UK are on us in Wales. We are blazing an exciting trail with this policy, and it must not be allowed to suffer because of a lack of funding.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: I will now adjourn the meeting until 5 p.m., and the voting bell will be rung at 4:55 p.m..

y gwn i. Saith mlynedd yn ôl, pan ymchwiliwyd i'r polisi hwn am y tro cyntaf gan yr hen Bwyllgor Addysg Cyn-16, yr oeddwn yn gefnogol iawn iddo. Ond ofnaf fod y Gweinidog ar fin cipio gorchfygiad o enau buddugoliaeth.

Jeff Cuthbert: A wnewch chi ildio?

Jenny Randerson: Mae'n ddrwg gennyf, ni allaf dderbyn ymyriad arall; ni fydd y Dirprwy Lywydd mor oddefgar â hynny.

Mae'r Gweinidog ar fin cipio anghytundeb o enau cytundeb llwyr ar draws y Siambr. Mae'n broblem gyffredin: mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn cyflwyno cynllun newydd, heb roi digon o arian ar ei gyfer, ac yn disgwyl i awdurdodau lleol dalu'r bil. Fodd bynnag, y tro hwn yr oedd y setliad a roddwyd i lywodraeth leol yn rhy fach i hynny ddigwydd, ac mae'r bwlch cyllido lawer yn rhy fawr.

Mae llygaid gweddill y DU arnom ni yng Nghymru. Yr ydym yn torri llwybr cyffrous gyda'r polisi hwn, ac ni allwn adael iddo ddiodef oherwydd prinder arian.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Gohiriaf y cyfarfod yn awr tan 5 p.m., a chenir y gloch bleidleisio am 4:55 p.m..

*Gohiriwyd y Cyfarfod Llawn rhwng 4.53 p.m. a 5 p.m.
Plenary was adjourned between 4.53 p.m. and 5 p.m.*

*Gwelliant 1 i NDM3909: O blaid 7, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 45.
Amendment 1 to NDM3909: For 7, Abstain 0, Against 45.*

Pleidleisiodd yr Aelodau canlynol o blaid:
The following Members voted for:

Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Burnham, Eleanor
German, Michael
Law, Trish
Randerson, Jenny
Williams, Kirsty

Pleidleisiodd yr Aelodau canlynol yn erbyn:
The following Members voted against:

Andrews, Leighton
Asghar, Mohammad
Barrett, Lorraine
Bourne, Nick
Cairns, Alun
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Alun
Davies, Andrew
Davies, Andrew R.T.
Davies, Jocelyn
Davies, Paul
Franks, Chris
Gibbons, Brian
Gregory, Janice

Griffiths, John
Griffiths, Lesley
Hart, Edwina
Hutt, Jane
Isherwood, Mark
James, Irene
Jenkins, Bethan
Jones, Alun Ffred
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Jones, Elin
Jones, Gareth
Jones, Helen Mary
Jones, Ieuan Wyn
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, David
Lloyd, Val
Melding, David
Mewies, Sandy
Millar, Darren
Morgan, Jonathan
Morgan, Rhodri
Neagle, Lynne
Ramsay, Nick
Ryder, Janet
Sargeant, Carl
Thomas, Gwenda
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Williams, Brynle
Wood, Leanne

*Gwrthodwyd y gwelliant.
Amendment defeated.*

*Gwelliant 2 i NDM3909: O blaid 42, Ymatal 10, Yn erbyn 0.
Amendment 2 to NDM3909: For 42, Abstain 10, Against 0.*

Pleidleisiodd yr Aelodau canlynol o blaid:
The following Members voted for:

Andrews, Leighton
Asghar, Mohammad
Barrett, Lorraine
Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Burnham, Eleanor
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Alun
Davies, Andrew
Davies, Jocelyn
Franks, Chris
German, Michael
Gibbons, Brian
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Griffiths, Lesley
Hart, Edwina
Hutt, Jane
James, Irene
Jenkins, Bethan
Jones, Alun Ffred
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Jones, Elin
Jones, Gareth

Pleidleisiodd yr Aelodau canlynol yn erbyn:
The following Members voted against:

Jones, Helen Mary
 Jones, Ieuan Wyn
 Law, Trish
 Lewis, Huw
 Lloyd, David
 Lloyd, Val
 Mewies, Sandy
 Morgan, Rhodri
 Neagle, Lynne
 Randerson, Jenny
 Ryder, Janet
 Sargeant, Carl
 Thomas, Gwenda
 Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
 Williams, Kirsty
 Wood, Leanne

Ymataliodd yr Aelodau canlynol:
 The following Members abstained:

Bourne, Nick
 Cairns, Alun
 Davies, Andrew R.T.
 Davies, Paul
 Isherwood, Mark
 Melding, David
 Millar, Darren
 Morgan, Jonathan
 Ramsay, Nick
 Williams, Brynle

*Derbyniwyd y gwelliant.
 Amendment carried.*

*Gwelliant 3 i NDM3909: O blaid 17, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 35.
 Amendment 3 to NDM3909: For 17, Abstain 0, Against 35.*

Pleidleisiodd yr Aelodau canlynol o blaid:
 The following Members voted for:

Bates, Mick
 Black, Peter
 Bourne, Nick
 Burnham, Eleanor
 Cairns, Alun
 Davies, Andrew R.T.
 Davies, Paul
 German, Michael
 Isherwood, Mark
 Law, Trish
 Melding, David
 Millar, Darren
 Morgan, Jonathan
 Ramsay, Nick
 Randerson, Jenny
 Williams, Brynle
 Williams, Kirsty

Pleidleisiodd yr Aelodau canlynol yn erbyn:
 The following Members voted against:

Andrews, Leighton
 Asghar, Mohammad
 Barrett, Lorraine
 Cuthbert, Jeff
 Davidson, Jane
 Davies, Alun
 Davies, Andrew
 Davies, Jocelyn
 Franks, Chris
 Gibbons, Brian
 Gregory, Janice
 Griffiths, John
 Griffiths, Lesley
 Hart, Edwina
 Hutt, Jane
 James, Irene
 Jenkins, Bethan
 Jones, Alun Ffred
 Jones, Ann
 Jones, Carwyn
 Jones, Elin
 Jones, Gareth
 Jones, Helen Mary
 Jones, Ieuan Wyn
 Lewis, Huw
 Lloyd, David

Lloyd, Val
 Mewies, Sandy
 Morgan, Rhodri
 Neagle, Lynne
 Ryder, Janet
 Sargeant, Carl
 Thomas, Gwenda
 Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
 Wood, Leanne

*Gwrthodwyd y gwelliant.
 Amendment defeated.*

*Gwelliant 4 i NDM3909: O blaid 17, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 35.
 Amendment 4 to NDM3909: For 17, Abstain 0, Against 35.*

Pleidleisiodd yr Aelodau canlynol o blaid:
 The following Members voted for:

Bates, Mick
 Black, Peter
 Bourne, Nick
 Burnham, Eleanor
 Cairns, Alun
 Davies, Andrew R.T.
 Davies, Paul
 German, Michael
 Isherwood, Mark
 Law, Trish
 Melding, David
 Millar, Darren
 Morgan, Jonathan
 Ramsay, Nick
 Randerson, Jenny
 Williams, Brynle
 Williams, Kirsty

Pleidleisiodd yr Aelodau canlynol yn erbyn:
 The following Members voted against:

Andrews, Leighton
 Asghar, Mohammad
 Barrett, Lorraine
 Cuthbert, Jeff
 Davidson, Jane
 Davies, Alun
 Davies, Andrew
 Davies, Jocelyn
 Franks, Chris
 Gibbons, Brian
 Gregory, Janice
 Griffiths, John
 Griffiths, Lesley
 Hart, Edwina
 Hutt, Jane
 James, Irene
 Jenkins, Bethan
 Jones, Alun Ffred
 Jones, Ann
 Jones, Carwyn
 Jones, Elin
 Jones, Gareth
 Jones, Helen Mary
 Jones, Ieuan Wyn
 Lewis, Huw
 Lloyd, David
 Lloyd, Val
 Mewies, Sandy
 Morgan, Rhodri
 Neagle, Lynne
 Ryder, Janet
 Sargeant, Carl
 Thomas, Gwenda
 Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
 Wood, Leanne

*Gwrthodwyd y gwelliant.
 Amendment defeated.*

*Gwelliant 5 i NDM3909: O blaid 52, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 0.
 Amendment 5 to NDM3909: For 52, Abstain 0, Against 0.*

Pleidleisiodd yr Aelodau canlynol o blaid:
 The following Members voted for:

Andrews, Leighton
 Asghar, Mohammad
 Barrett, Lorraine
 Bates, Mick
 Black, Peter
 Bourne, Nick
 Burnham, Eleanor
 Cairns, Alun
 Cuthbert, Jeff
 Davidson, Jane
 Davies, Alun
 Davies, Andrew
 Davies, Andrew R.T.
 Davies, Jocelyn
 Davies, Paul
 Franks, Chris
 German, Michael
 Gibbons, Brian
 Gregory, Janice
 Griffiths, John
 Griffiths, Lesley
 Hart, Edwina
 Hutt, Jane
 Isherwood, Mark
 James, Irene
 Jenkins, Bethan
 Jones, Alun Ffred
 Jones, Ann
 Jones, Carwyn
 Jones, Elin
 Jones, Gareth
 Jones, Helen Mary
 Jones, Ieuan Wyn
 Law, Trish
 Lewis, Huw
 Lloyd, David
 Lloyd, Val
 Melding, David
 Mewies, Sandy
 Millar, Darren
 Morgan, Jonathan
 Morgan, Rhodri
 Neagle, Lynne
 Ramsay, Nick
 Randerson, Jenny
 Ryder, Janet
 Sargeant, Carl
 Thomas, Gwenda
 Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
 Williams, Brynle
 Williams, Kirsty
 Wood, Leanne

*Derbyniwyd y gwelliant.
Amendment carried.*

*Gwelliant 6 i NDM3909: O blaid 8, Ymatal 10, Yn erbyn 34.
Amendment 6 to NDM3909: For 8, Abstain 10, Against 34.*

Pleidleisiodd yr Aelodau canlynol o blaid:
The following Members voted for:

Bates, Mick
 Black, Peter
 Burnham, Eleanor
 German, Michael

Pleidleisiodd yr Aelodau canlynol yn erbyn:
The following Members voted against:

Andrews, Leighton
 Asghar, Mohammad
 Barrett, Lorraine
 Cuthbert, Jeff

Law, Trish
 Randerson, Jenny
 Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
 Williams, Kirsty

Davidson, Jane
 Davies, Alun
 Davies, Andrew
 Davies, Jocelyn
 Franks, Chris
 Gibbons, Brian
 Gregory, Janice
 Griffiths, John
 Griffiths, Lesley
 Hart, Edwina
 Hutt, Jane
 James, Irene
 Jenkins, Bethan
 Jones, Alun Ffred
 Jones, Ann
 Jones, Carwyn
 Jones, Elin
 Jones, Gareth
 Jones, Helen Mary
 Jones, Ieuan Wyn
 Lewis, Huw
 Lloyd, David
 Lloyd, Val
 Mewies, Sandy
 Morgan, Rhodri
 Neagle, Lynne
 Ryder, Janet
 Sargeant, Carl
 Thomas, Gwenda
 Wood, Leanne

Ymataliodd yr Aelodau canlynol:
 The following Members abstained:

Bourne, Nick
 Cairns, Alun
 Davies, Andrew R.T.
 Davies, Paul
 Isherwood, Mark
 Melding, David
 Millar, Darren
 Morgan, Jonathan
 Ramsay, Nick
 Williams, Brynle

*Gwrthodwyd y gwelliant.
 Amendment defeated.*

Motion NDM3909 as amended: that

the National Assembly for Wales

1. agrees that the Assembly Government was wrong to restructure the NHS into 22 local health boards;

2. believes that any alternative to the current arrangement must maintain strong links with local authorities;

3. believes that in the current proposals for reorganisation, any Health Board for Wales would result in considerable centralisation

Cynnig NDM3909 fel y'i diwygiwyd: bod

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru

1. yn cytuno bod Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn anghywir i ailstrwythuro'r GIG yn 22 o fyrddau iechyd lleol;

2. yn credu bod yn rhaid i unrhyw beth a fydd yn disodli'r trefniant cyfredol gynnal cysylltiadau cryf gydag awdurdodau lleol;

3. yn credu, gyda'r cynigion cyfredol ar gyfer ad-drefnu, y byddai unrhyw fwrdd iechyd ar gyfer Cymru yn arwain at ganoli sylweddol a

and concentration of power in the hands of the Minister.

*Cynnig NDM3909 fel y'i diwygiwyd: O blaid 10, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 42.
Motion NDM3909 as amended: For 10, Abstain 0, Against 42.*

Pleidleisiodd yr Aelodau canlynol o blaid:
The following Members voted for:

Bourne, Nick
Cairns, Alun
Davies, Andrew R.T.
Davies, Paul
Isherwood, Mark
Melding, David
Millar, Darren
Morgan, Jonathan
Ramsay, Nick
Williams, Brynle

Pleidleisiodd yr Aelodau canlynol yn erbyn:
The following Members voted against:

Andrews, Leighton
Asghar, Mohammad
Barrett, Lorraine
Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Burnham, Eleanor
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Alun
Davies, Andrew
Davies, Jocelyn
Franks, Chris
German, Michael
Gibbons, Brian
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Griffiths, Lesley
Hart, Edwina
Hutt, Jane
James, Irene
Jenkins, Bethan
Jones, Alun Ffred
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Jones, Elin
Jones, Gareth
Jones, Helen Mary
Jones, Ieuan Wyn
Law, Trish
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, David
Lloyd, Val
Mewies, Sandy
Morgan, Rhodri
Neagle, Lynne
Randerson, Jenny
Ryder, Janet
Sargeant, Carl
Thomas, Gwenda
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Williams, Kirsty
Wood, Leanne

*Gwrthodwyd cynnig NDM3909 fel y'i diwygiwyd.
Motion NDM3909 as amended defeated.*

*Gwelliant 1 i NDM3910: O blaid 18, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 34.
Amendment 1 to NDM3910: For 18, Abstain 0, Against 34.*

Pleidleisiodd yr Aelodau canlynol o blaid:
The following Members voted for:

Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Bourne, Nick

Pleidleisiodd yr Aelodau canlynol yn erbyn:
The following Members voted against:

Andrews, Leighton
Asghar, Mohammad
Barrett, Lorraine

Burnham, Eleanor
 Cairns, Alun
 Davies, Andrew R.T.
 Davies, Paul
 German, Michael
 Isherwood, Mark
 Jones, Ieuan Wyn
 Law, Trish
 Melding, David
 Millar, Darren
 Morgan, Jonathan
 Ramsay, Nick
 Randerson, Jenny
 Williams, Brynle
 Williams, Kirsty

Cuthbert, Jeff
 Davidson, Jane
 Davies, Alun
 Davies, Andrew
 Davies, Jocelyn
 Franks, Chris
 Gibbons, Brian
 Gregory, Janice
 Griffiths, John
 Griffiths, Lesley
 Hart, Edwina
 Hutt, Jane
 James, Irene
 Jenkins, Bethan
 Jones, Alun Ffred
 Jones, Ann
 Jones, Carwyn
 Jones, Elin
 Jones, Gareth
 Jones, Helen Mary
 Lewis, Huw
 Lloyd, David
 Lloyd, Val
 Mewies, Sandy
 Morgan, Rhodri
 Neagle, Lynne
 Ryder, Janet
 Sargeant, Carl
 Thomas, Gwenda
 Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
 Wood, Leanne

*Gwrthodwyd y gwelliant.
 Amendment defeated.*

*Gwelliant 2 i NDM3910: O blaid 17, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 35.
 Amendment 2 to NDM3910: For 17, Abstain 0, Against 35.*

Pleidleisiodd yr Aelodau canlynol o blaid:
 The following Members voted for:

Bates, Mick
 Black, Peter
 Bourne, Nick
 Burnham, Eleanor
 Cairns, Alun
 Davies, Andrew R.T.
 Davies, Paul
 German, Michael
 Isherwood, Mark
 Law, Trish
 Melding, David
 Millar, Darren
 Morgan, Jonathan
 Ramsay, Nick
 Randerson, Jenny
 Williams, Brynle
 Williams, Kirsty

Pleidleisiodd yr Aelodau canlynol yn erbyn:
 The following Members voted against:

Andrews, Leighton
 Asghar, Mohammad
 Barrett, Lorraine
 Cuthbert, Jeff
 Davidson, Jane
 Davies, Alun
 Davies, Andrew
 Davies, Jocelyn
 Franks, Chris
 Gibbons, Brian
 Gregory, Janice
 Griffiths, John
 Griffiths, Lesley
 Hart, Edwina
 Hutt, Jane
 James, Irene
 Jenkins, Bethan
 Jones, Alun Ffred
 Jones, Ann
 Jones, Carwyn
 Jones, Elin
 Jones, Gareth
 Jones, Helen Mary
 Jones, Ieuan Wyn
 Lewis, Huw

Lloyd, David
 Lloyd, Val
 Mewies, Sandy
 Morgan, Rhodri
 Neagle, Lynne
 Ryder, Janet
 Sargeant, Carl
 Thomas, Gwenda
 Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
 Wood, Leanne

*Gwrthodwyd y gwelliant.
 Amendment defeated.*

*Gwelliant 3 i NDM3910: O blaid 7, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 45.
 Amendment 3 to NDM3910: For 7, Abstain 0, Against 45.*

Pleidleisiodd yr Aelodau canlynol o blaid:
 The following Members voted for:

Bates, Mick
 Black, Peter
 Burnham, Eleanor
 German, Michael
 Law, Trish
 Randerson, Jenny
 Williams, Kirsty

Pleidleisiodd yr Aelodau canlynol yn erbyn:
 The following Members voted against:

Andrews, Leighton
 Asghar, Mohammad
 Barrett, Lorraine
 Bourne, Nick
 Cairns, Alun
 Cuthbert, Jeff
 Davidson, Jane
 Davies, Alun
 Davies, Andrew
 Davies, Andrew R.T.
 Davies, Jocelyn
 Davies, Paul
 Franks, Chris
 Gibbons, Brian
 Gregory, Janice
 Griffiths, John
 Griffiths, Lesley
 Hart, Edwina
 Hutt, Jane
 Isherwood, Mark
 James, Irene
 Jenkins, Bethan
 Jones, Alun Ffred
 Jones, Ann
 Jones, Carwyn
 Jones, Elin
 Jones, Gareth
 Jones, Helen Mary
 Jones, Ieuan Wyn
 Lewis, Huw
 Lloyd, David
 Lloyd, Val
 Melding, David
 Mewies, Sandy
 Millar, Darren
 Morgan, Jonathan
 Morgan, Rhodri
 Neagle, Lynne
 Ramsay, Nick
 Ryder, Janet
 Sargeant, Carl
 Thomas, Gwenda
 Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
 Williams, Brynle
 Wood, Leanne

*Gwrthodwyd y gwelliant.
Amendment defeated.*

*Cynnig (NDM3910): O blaid 52, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 0.
Motion (NDM3910): For 52, Abstain 0, Against 0.*

Pleidleisiodd yr Aelodau canlynol o blaid:
The following Members voted for:

Andrews, Leighton
Asghar, Mohammad
Barrett, Lorraine
Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Bourne, Nick
Burnham, Eleanor
Cairns, Alun
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Alun
Davies, Andrew
Davies, Andrew R.T.
Davies, Jocelyn
Davies, Paul
Franks, Chris
German, Michael
Gibbons, Brian
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Griffiths, Lesley
Hart, Edwina
Hutt, Jane
Isherwood, Mark
James, Irene
Jenkins, Bethan
Jones, Alun Ffred
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Jones, Elin
Jones, Gareth
Jones, Helen Mary
Jones, Ieuan Wyn
Law, Trish
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, David
Lloyd, Val
Melding, David
Mewies, Sandy
Millar, Darren
Morgan, Jonathan
Morgan, Rhodri
Neagle, Lynne
Ramsay, Nick
Randerson, Jenny
Ryder, Janet
Sargeant, Carl
Thomas, Gwenda
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Williams, Brynle
Williams, Kirsty
Wood, Leanne

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
Motion carried.*

*Cynnig (NDM3911): O blaid 17, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 35.
Motion (NDM3911): For 17, Abstain 0, Against 35.*

Pleidleisiodd yr Aelodau canlynol o blaid:
The following Members voted for:

Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Bourne, Nick
Burnham, Eleanor
Cairns, Alun
Davies, Andrew R.T.
Davies, Paul
German, Michael
Isherwood, Mark
Law, Trish
Melding, David
Millar, Darren
Morgan, Jonathan
Ramsay, Nick
Randerson, Jenny
Williams, Brynle
Williams, Kirsty

Pleidleisiodd yr Aelodau canlynol yn erbyn:
The following Members voted against:

Andrews, Leighton
Asghar, Mohammad
Barrett, Lorraine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Alun
Davies, Andrew
Davies, Jocelyn
Franks, Chris
Gibbons, Brian
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Griffiths, Lesley
Hart, Edwina
Hutt, Jane
James, Irene
Jenkins, Bethan
Jones, Alun Ffred
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Jones, Elin
Jones, Gareth
Jones, Helen Mary
Jones, Ieuan Wyn
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, David
Lloyd, Val
Mewies, Sandy
Morgan, Rhodri
Neagle, Lynne
Ryder, Janet
Sargeant, Carl
Thomas, Gwenda
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Wood, Leanne

*Gwrthodwyd y cynnig.
Motion defeated.*

Dadl Fer Short Debate

Tlodi Plant: Cysyniad ynteu Realiti? Child Poverty: Concept or Reality?

Eleanor Burnham: Mae'n bleser gennyf roi amser i Christine Chapman, Huw Lewis a Bethan Jenkins siarad yn y ddadl hon, a hoffwn ddiolch iddynt am ofyn i gyfrannu.

Eleanor Burnham: It is a pleasure to give Christine Chapman, Huw Lewis and Bethan Jenkins an opportunity to speak during this debate, and I thank them for asking to contribute.

Yr wyf wedi seilio fy nadl heddiw ar fater sy'n agos at fy nghalon. Yr wyf yn llefarydd fy mhlaidd ar faterion plant a phobl ifanc ac, o ganlyniad gweithio gyda phlant o gefndiroedd llai ffodus, yr wyf wedi cael

I have based my debate today on a matter which is close to my heart. I am my party's spokesperson on issues involving children and young people, and, having worked with children from less privileged backgrounds, I

profiad uniongyrchol o'r effaith y mae tlodi ymysg ein plant yn ei chael ar eu datblygiad a'u dyfodol.

Ffurfiaws deitl fy nadl ar ôl gwranddo ar Rhodri Morgan yn cyfeirio at dlodi plant fel '*a bit of a kind of a concept, really*', yr wythnos diwethaf. Tra bod tlodi plant yn '*a bit of a kind of a concept*' ym mhen Rhodri Morgan, mae 180,000 o blant yn cychwyn bywyd ddau gam y tu ôl i weddill plant Cymru.

Of the many different aspects of child poverty, I will particularly focus on the reality facing children in education and its effect on their emotional education and wellbeing, and the cumbersome tax and benefits system.

O ran addysg, er nad yw cynnal plentyn mewn ysgol leol yn peri cost i'r teulu, mae nifer o ffactorau eraill ynghylch y byd ysgol yn peri problem i lawer o deuluoedd tlawd. Datgelodd ymchwil gan fynegai School Sums Norwich Union yn ddiweddar fod cost cynnal plentyn o bump oed i 16 oed wedi codi gan £1,300 mewn pedair blynedd. Mae llawer o blant yn colli allan gan fod angen arian arnynt ar gyfer tripiâu ysgol, offer cerddorol, offer chwaraeon, gwisg ysgol, llyfrau dosbarth, cinio, offer dosbarth, a gweithgareddau ar ôl oriau ysgol. Mae hi'n anodd i rieni ddweud wrth eu plant nad ydynt yn cael mynd ar dripiâu ysgol gan nad oes digon o arian, neu eu bod yn methu â fforddio esgidiau pêl-droed. Dwy enghraifft yn unig yw'r rheiny.

Mae tystiolaeth mewn erthygl Family Matters yn dangos bod plant sy'n gwisgo yn wahanol, sy'n cael prydau am ddim, ac nad ydynt yn gallu cymryd rhan mewn gweithgareddau cymdeithasol, yn cael eu stigmatiddio, eu hanwybyddu, ac yn dioddef bwlio. Yn anochel, mae'n effeithio ar eu lles emosiynol a'u cyfraniadau yn yr ysgol. Gwn, wrth gwrs, am hanes diweddar y plant a'r bobl ifanc sy'n cymryd eu bywydau eu hunain, sy'n ofnadwy.

have had direct experience of the impact child poverty has on their development and future.

I came up with the title of my debate after listening to Rhodri Morgan refer to child poverty last week as 'a bit of a kind of a concept, really'. Although child poverty is 'a bit of a kind of a concept' in Rhodri Morgan's mind, 180,000 children start their lives two steps behind the rest of the children of Wales.

O'r gwahanol agweddau lawer ar dlodi plant, byddaf yn canolbwyntio'n benodol ar y realiti sy'n wynebu plant mewn addysg a'i effaith ar eu haddysg ac ar eu lles emosiynol, a'r system feichus o drethi a budd-daliadau.

On education, although supporting a child in a local school does not incur costs for the family, there are many other factors in schools which cause difficulties for many poorer families. Recent research from the Norwich Union School Sums index revealed that the cost of supporting a child between five and 16 years of age has increased £1,300 in four years. Many children lose out because they need money for school trips, music equipment, sports equipment, school uniform, school books, meals, stationery and after-school activities. It is difficult for parents when they have to tell their children that they cannot go on a school trip because they do not have enough money, or that they cannot afford football boots, and those are just two examples.

Evidence from a Family Matters article shows that children who wear different clothes, who receive free meals, and who cannot participate in social activities are stigmatised, ignored and bullied. Inevitably, it affects their emotional wellbeing and their academic contribution at school. Of course, I am aware of the recent history of the children and young people who have taken their own lives, which is dreadful.

Mae hyn i gyd yn anfon rhai ar gyfeiliorn ac i ymddwyn yn wrthgymdeithasol, pwnc a drafodwyd gennym yn gynharach. Yn ôl y Swyddfa Ystadegau Gwladol, rhwng 2005 a 2007, nid oedd plant a oedd yn derbyn pryd ysgol am ddim—sy'n aml yn fesur o dlodi yn y cartref—yn gwneud cystal â'u cyddisgyblion o gefndir cymdeithasol cefnogol yng nghyfnodau allweddol 1, 2, 3 a 4. Profa hyn fod llwyddiant addysgol plentyn ac, o bosibl, ei ddyfodol, yn cael ei benderfynu cyn iddo gamu dros riniog yr ysgol. Dyma anghyfiawnder cymdeithasol ar ei waethaf, yn fy marn i. Mae addysg a chyfle yn hanfodol i godi pobl allan o gefndiroedd tlawd, ond, gan amlaf, yr ysgolion mewn ardaloedd tlawd sy'n gweld diffyg mewn cyfleoedd diwylliannol, celfyddydol, a chwaraeon. Tueddir gweld clybiau a gweithgareddau felly mewn cymdeithasau dosbarth canol.

Yng nghyfarfod y Pwyllgor Is-ddeddfwriaeth fore Mawrth, yr oeddwn yn falch o weld Mesur arfaethedig Jenny Randerson ar fwyta'n iach mewn ysgolion yn dod ger ein bron; bydd y pwyllgor yn craffu arno'n fuan. Er bod plant o deuluoedd tlawd yn cael prydau am ddim, mae teuluoedd sydd ag incwm ychydig yn uwch nag isafswm y meini prawf ar gyfer y ddarpariaeth ddi-dâl, a theuluoedd mawr gyda sawl plentyn sy'n cael pryd yn yr ysgol yn ei chael hi'n anodd talu.

I will turn briefly to family tax credits. I realise that it is not a devolved matter, but it is key. The UK Government is key to tackling child poverty, as it has the direct economic levers available to eradicate child poverty. It has apparently attempted to tackle child poverty through tax credits, yet these change constantly and are wrapped in bureaucracy, making them complex and hard for many poor families to access. They are even clawed back when mistakes are made by Government agencies, which is awful. It is shameful that the figures released by the Department of Work and Pensions last September show that an estimated up to £9.4 billion in means-tested benefits had not been claimed by those entitled to them. In 2007, HM Revenue and Customs figures revealed that up to £4.5 billion in working tax credits and child tax credits go unclaimed annually in the UK. That makes a total of up to £14

All this causes some pupils to go astray and to behave in an anti-social way, which is an issue we discussed earlier. According to the Office for National Statistics, between 2005 and 2007 children who received free school meals—which is often a measure of poverty at home—were not as successful as pupils from supportive social backgrounds in key stages 1, 2, 3, and 4. That proves that the educational success of a child and, possibly, its future, is already determined before he has even crossed the school threshold. In my view, this is social injustice at its worst. Education and opportunities are essential to lift people out of poor backgrounds, but schools in poorer areas are usually the ones that are lacking in opportunity in culture, art and sports. Clubs and activities such as those tend to be found in middle-class communities.

In the Subordinate Legislation Committee meeting on Tuesday morning, I was pleased to see Jenny Randerson's proposed Measure on healthy eating in schools come before us; the committee will scrutinise it soon. Although children from poor families receive free meals, families with an income just above the minimum in the criteria for free provision, and large families with many children who take meals at school, also find it difficult to pay.

Trof yn fyr at gredydau treth teulu. Yr wyf yn sylweddoli nad yw hwn yn fater sydd wedi ei ddatganoli, ond mae'n allweddol. Mae Llywodraeth y DU yn allweddol i fynd i'r afael â thlodi plant, gan fod y cyfryngau economaidd uniongyrchol ar gael iddi ddileu tlodi plant. Mae'n debyg ei bod wedi ymdrechu i fynd i'r afael â thlodi plant drwy gredydau treth, ond eto mae'r rhain yn newid yn gyson ac yn llawn biwrocratiaeth, sy'n eu gwneud yn gymhleth a thu hwnt i gyrraedd llawer o deuluoedd tlawd. Maent hyd yn oed yn cael eu cymryd yn ôl pan wneir camgymeriadau gan asiantaethau'r Llywodraeth, sy'n ofnadwy. Mae'n warthus fod y ffigurau a ryddhawyd gan yr Adran Gwaith a Phensiynau fis Medi diwethaf yn dangos bod amcangyfrif o hyd at £9.4 biliwn mewn budd-daliadau prawf modd heb eu hawlio gan y rheini sy'n gallu eu hawlio. Yn 2007, datgelodd ffigurau Cyllid a Thollau

billion a year that those in greatest need of support are not receiving. Taking a 4.9 per cent share of that for the Welsh population, that amounts to around £700 million in Wales.

5.10 p.m.

Every year, low-income families in Wales miss out on around £700 million in benefits and tax credit entitlements therefore. With regard to those low-income parents who have been able to find a job, 60,000 families miss out, on average, on £1,000 a year in child and working tax credits.

Reliance on means testing has become too great and it is failing. The complexity of benefits and tax credits is proving far too big a barrier for millions who should be receiving that support. We need a simpler, more stable and more accessible form of benefit for poorer families.

Regrettably, this year's UK budget will be remembered as the one that abandoned its target to halve child poverty by 2010 and to eradicate it by 2020. Perversely, the Government invested less than a third of what is necessary to halve child poverty. The UK Government gave up, effectively, on its 2010 target, and that has a significant knock-on effect in Wales.

Children in the poorest families will have to wait until next year for even the small-scale and highly complex changes announced last month to take effect. Labour has abandoned poor and vulnerable families, with a budget designed to appease the rich. Low income exacts a high price on children's lives. There is much evidence, and common sense tells us, that economic poverty can lead to poverty of goals and ambition and can continue the cycle of children living in poverty from one generation to another.

This Labour-Plaid Assembly Government has a big mountain to climb and some serious work to do to achieve a reduction or

EM fod hyd at £4.5 biliwn mewn credydau treth gwaith a chredydau treth plant heb eu hawlio bob blwyddyn yn y DU. Mae hynny'n gyfanswm o hyd at £14 biliwn y flwyddyn nad yw'n cyrraedd y rheini y mae arnynt angen y gefnogaeth fwyaf. A chymryd cyfran 4.9 y cant o hwnnw ar gyfer poblogaeth Cymru, mae hynny'n gyfanswm o ryw £700 miliwn yng Nghymru.

Bob blwyddyn bydd teuluoedd ar incwm isel yng Nghymru yn colli allan ar ryw £700 miliwn mewn hawliadau budd-dal a chredyd treth, felly. O ran y rhieni hynny ar incwm isel sydd wedi llwyddo i gael swydd, mae 60,000 o deuluoedd yn colli allan, ar gyfartaledd, ar £1,000 y flwyddyn mewn credydau treth plant a gwaith.

Dibynnir yn ormodol bellach ar brofion modd ac mae hyn yn methu. Mae cymhlethdod budd-daliadau a chredydau treth yn rhwystr rhy fawr o lawer i'r miliynau a ddylai fod yn cael cefnogaeth. Mae arnom angen math symlach, mwy sefydlog a mwy hwylus o fudd-dal i deuluoedd tlotach.

Yn anffodus, caiff cyllideb y DU eleni ei chofio fel yr un a roes y gorau i'w tharged o haneru tlodi plant erbyn 2010 a'i ddileu erbyn 2020. Yn wrthnysig, buddsoddodd y Llywodraeth lai nag un rhan o dair o'r hyn y mae ei angen i haneru tlodi plant. I bob pwrpas, rhoes Llywodraeth y DU y gorau i'w tharged 2010, ac mae hynny'n cael effaith ddilynol sylweddol yng Nghymru.

Bydd yn rhaid i blant yn y teuluoedd tlotaf aros tan y flwyddyn nesaf cyn i hyd yn oed y newidiadau bach a chymhleth iawn a gyhoeddwyd fis diwethaf ddod i rym. Mae Llafur wedi esgeuluso teuluoedd tlawd a theuluoedd sy'n agored i ddiodeff gyda chyllideb a gynlluniwyd i blesio'r cyfoethog. Mae incwm isel yn golygu pris uchel ar fywydau plant. Mae llawer o dystiolaeth, ac mae synnwyr cyffredin yn dweud wrthym, fod tlodi economaidd yn gallu arwain at dlodi o ran nod ac uchelgais ac yn gallu parhau cylch tlodi plant o'r naill genhedlaeth i'r llall.

Mae gan y Llywodraeth Cynulliad Llafur-Plaid fynydd mawr i'w ddringo a chryn waith difrifol i'w wneud i leihau neu ddileu'r pla

eradication of this scourge of our society. Our National Assembly of Wales is doing a great deal of effective work to protect children. Only yesterday, the Government announced that it would look at protecting children travelling on buses to and from school. I was fortunate to chair the committee on the additional learning needs LCO, which made its return journey to the Privy Council last week, and there is currently a committee looking at the protection of vulnerable children. That is all very laudable. I am proud that we are making some small improvements, but why are we still talking about child poverty nearly 10 years after Tony Blair made his promise in Westminster?

In conclusion, I thank all of the various charities and organisations that continue the fight to eradicate child poverty in Wales, including Barnardo's Cymru, Save the Children Cymru, Children in Wales, NSPCC Cymru—forgive me if I missed out other laudable groups—and the Children's Commissioner for Wales and his wonderful staff, who are always ready to provide statistics, information and guidance on how to finally end this social injustice.

Although Westminster has the vital economic levers to speed up the eradication of child poverty, I urge our Ministers here, even with our limited powers over education, health and housing, to lead the way as we did in appointing the first children's commissioner in the UK. He will continue to monitor the needs of children in Wales to ensure that we all play our part in reducing and eradicating child poverty throughout Wales.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Are you offering time to any speakers?

Eleanor Burnham: Yes, I said at the beginning that it would give me pleasure to allow Christine Chapman, Huw Lewis and Bethan Jenkins time in which to speak. I am grateful for their interest.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: Christine Chapman is not here, so I call Huw Lewis.

Huw Lewis: I welcome the increasing cross-party consensus on the importance of child

hwn yn ein cymdeithas. Mae ein Cynulliad Cenedlaethol yn gwneud llawer iawn o waith effeithiol i amddiffyn plant. Ddoe ddiwethaf cyhoeddodd y Llywodraeth y byddai'n edrych ar amddiffyn plant sy'n teithio yn ôl ac ymlaen i'r ysgol ar fysiau. Yr oeddwn yn ffodus i gadeirio'r pwyllgor ar y Gorchymyn cymhwysedd deddfwriaethol ar anghenion dysgu ychwanegol, a aeth yn ôl at y Cyfrin Gyngor yr wythnos diwethaf, ac mae pwyllgor ar hyn o bryd yn edrych ar amddiffyn plant sy'n agored i ddioddef. Mae hynny oll yn ganmoladwy iawn. Yr wyf yn falch ein bod yn gwneud rhai gwelliannau bach, ond pam yr ydym yn siarad o hyd am dlodi plant bron 10 mlynedd ar ôl i Tony Blair wneud ei addewid yn San Steffan?

I gloi, diolchaf i'r holl amrywiol elusennau ar mudiadau sy'n parhau i ymladd i ddileu tlodi plant yng Nghymru, gan gynnwys Barnardo's Cymru, Achub y Plant Cymru, Plant yng Nghymru, NSPCC Cymru—maddeuwch imi os anghofiais sôn am grwpiau canmoladwy eraill—a Chomisiynydd Plant Cymru a'i staff gwych sydd bob amser yn barod i roi ystadegau, gwybodaeth ac arweiniad sut i roi terfyn o'r diwedd ar yr anghyfiawnder cymdeithasol hwn.

Er bod gan San Steffan y cyfryngau economaidd hanfodol i gyflymu dileu tlodi plant, erfyniaf ar ein Gweinidogion yma, hyd yn oed gyda'n pwerau cyfyngedig dros addysg, iechyd a thai, i arwain y ffordd fel y gwnaethom wrth benodi'r comisiynydd plant cyntaf yn y DU. Bydd yn parhau i fonitro anghenion plant yng Nghymru i sicrhau ein bod i gyd yn gwneud ein rhan i leihau a dileu tlodi plant ledled Cymru.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: A ydych yn cynnig amser i unrhyw siaradwyr?

Eleanor Burnham: Ydwyf, dywedais ar y dechrau y byddai'n bleser gennyf roi amser i Christine Chapman, Huw Lewis a Bethan Jenkins siarad. Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar am eu diddordeb.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Nid yw Christine Chapman yma, felly, galwaf ar Huw Lewis.

Huw Lewis: Yr wyf yn croesawu'r cytundeb cynyddol ar draws y pleidiau sy'n dod yn

poverty that is emerging in the Chamber, exemplified today by Eleanor's debate. However, I would remind Eleanor that Labour made these commitments. It has made historic in-roads into child poverty, which no other party has even identified, let alone worked on as a target. Other parties have been trailing behind on this, and in terms of commitment to this target, the Liberal Democrats are trailing in last place.

However, Eleanor is right to say that this consensus will count for nothing without targeted investment in those children's life chances and that is when the tough decisions will have to be made. It is about time that some of those decisions were made. As Eleanor said, child poverty is the concept and the reality is stunted lives. That is the cost of doing nothing.

Bethan Jenkins: I thank Eleanor for bringing this subject to the Assembly's attention. I have said before, on numerous occasions, that I welcome the work that the Assembly Government has done on this issue, but I still believe that it will be very difficult to reach the targets, because of what the Westminster Government is doing. In recent weeks, it launched its commissioning strategy on welfare reform, initiated by James Purnell. I am concerned that the delivery of benefits will be privatised throughout the UK. The Government is focusing its efforts on centralising the Department for Work and Pensions and Jobcentre Plus services, but it fails to realise that the jobs that it has been reducing in local areas will have to be picked up by the private sector. I am concerned that opponents within Labour to further powers for Wales will claim that the social justice agenda is more important, but that that is precisely why we need more powers in Wales. We need our own remedies when we do not agree with the UK Government, which has a London agenda.

The PCS union is also concerned about this. If there is privatisation in the sector, it

amlwg yn y Siambr ar bwysigrwydd tlodi plant, fel y dangoswyd heddiw gan ddadl Eleanor. Fodd bynnag, hoffwn atgoffa Eleanor mai Llafur a wnaeth yr ymrwymiadau hyn. Mae wedi cael llwyddiant hanesyddol gyda thlodi plant, ac nid oes yr un blaid arall wedi'i nodi hyd yn oed, heb sôn am weithio arno fel targed. Mae pleidiau eraill ar ei hôl hi yn hyn o beth, ac o ran ymrwymiad i'r targed hwn y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol sy'n llusgo yn y safle olaf.

Fodd bynnag, mae Eleanor yn llygad ei lle pan ddywed na fydd y consensws hwn yn cyfrif o gwbl heb fuddsoddiad wedi ei dargedu ar gyfleoedd bywyd y plant hynny, a dyna pryd y bydd yn rhaid gwneud penderfyniadau anodd. Mae'n hen bryd gwneud rhai o'r penderfyniadau hynny. Fel y dywedodd Eleanor, y cysyniad yw tlodi plant a'r realiti yw bywydau sy'n cael eu rhwystro. Dyna yw cost gwneud dim.

Bethan Jenkins: Diolch i Eleanor am ddwyn y pwnc hwn i sylw'r Cynulliad. Dywedais lawer gwaith o'r blaen fy mod yn croesawu'r gwaith y mae Llywodraeth y Cynulliad wedi ei wneud ar y pwnc hwn, ond yr wyf yn dal i gredu y bydd yn anodd iawn cyrraedd y targedau, oherwydd yr hyn y mae Llywodraeth San Steffan yn ei wneud. Dros yr wythnosau diwethaf, lansiodd ei strategaeth gomisiynu ar ddiwygio'r gyfundrefn les, a gychwynnwyd gan James Purnell. Pryderu yr wyf fi y caiff cyflwyno budd-daliadau ei breifateiddio ledled y DU. Mae'r Llywodraeth yn canolbwyntio'i hymdrechion ar ganoli gwasanaethau'r Adran Gwaith a Phensiynau a Chanolfannau Byd Gwaith, ond yn methu â sylweddoli y bydd yn rhaid i'r swyddi y bu'n eu cwtoegi mewn ardaloedd lleol gael eu hysgwyddo gan y sector preifat. Yr wyf yn pryderu y bydd y sawl yn y Blaid Lafur sy'n gwrthwynebu mwy o bwerau i Gymru yn hawlio bod yr agenda cyfiawnder cymdeithasol yn bwysicach, ond dyna'r union reswm pam mae arnom angen mwy o bwerau yng Nghymru. Mae arnom angen ein hatebion ein hunain pan nad ydym yn cytuno â Llywodraeth y DU, sydd ag agenda Lundeinig.

Mae'r undeb PCS hefyd yn pryderu am hyn. Os bydd preifateiddio yn y sector, credant y

believes that there could be a two-pronged effort to ensure the marketisation of child poverty strategies. It also believes that this is based on accounting logic and not on needs. The Policy Exchange thinktank agrees and has shown that, in other countries where this system is in place, private industries are deliberately keeping people out of work until they are worth more to place in a job. I would, therefore, urge the Minister to make representations to his colleagues and to take part in this commissioning strategy to ensure that we do not follow the UK Labour Party's agenda.

The Minister for Social Justice and Local Government (Brian Gibbons): I thank Eleanor for raising this issue, although her debate has a somewhat enigmatic title. Child poverty is at the heart of her debate, and we must acknowledge the progress that has been made on this issue and the fact that the percentage of children living in poverty in Wales has fallen from 35 to 28 per cent, which is an achievement. There has been a significant reversal of the child poverty that existed during the 1980s and 1990s, when the United Kingdom had the highest level of child poverty in Europe—that is a shameful record. We have turned that around, and now Wales is achieving a level of progress that is higher than that in the rest of the United Kingdom. The after-housing-cost measure of child poverty takes into account the fact that the level in Wales has fallen at double the rate of the United Kingdom level since the mid 1990s.

However, it is certainly totally unacceptable that there are approximately 180,000 children in Wales who are living in relative poverty. In view of the stagnation of progress over recent years, there is no ground for complacency in this regard. Consequently, it is important that the third Assembly Government renews its commitment to achieving the targets that have been set by the UK Government and complementing them. The UK Government has also recognised that it needs to boost its efforts, particularly in the face of the slowing down of progress that has taken place. The recently announced UK budget for child benefits and other benefits will make a significant contribution to achieving the targets. Recognising that

gall fod ymdrech ddwybig i sicrhau marchnadeiddio strategaethau tlodi plant. Credant hefyd fod hyn yn seiliedig ar resymeg cyfrifyddu yn hytrach nag ar angen. Mae seiat drafod Policy Exchange yn cytuno ac wedi dangos, mewn gwledydd eraill lle mae'r system hon ar waith, fod diwydiannau preifat yn fwriadol yn cadw pobl allan o waith nes byddant yn werth mwy i'w gosod mewn swydd. Felly, byddwn yn annog y Gweinidog i gyflwyno sylwadau i'w gyd-Aelodau ac i gymryd rhan yn y strategaeth gomisiynu hon, er mwyn sicrhau na fyddant yn dilyn agenda Plaid Lafur y DU.

Y Gweinidog dros Gyfiawnder Cymdeithasol a Llywodraeth Leol (Brian Gibbons): Diolch i Eleanor am godi'r pwnc hwn, er bod teitl braidd yn enigmatig i'w dadl. Mae tlodi plant wrth galon ei dadl, a rhaid inni gydnabod y cynnydd a wnaethpwyd ar hyn a'r ffaith fod canran y plant sy'n byw mewn tlodi yng Nghymru wedi gostwng o 35 i 28 y cant, sydd yn llwyddiant. Mae tlodi plant yn ystod y 1980au a'r 1990au, pan oedd gan y Deyrnas Unedig y lefel uchaf o dlodi plant yn Ewrop—sydd yn record gywilyddus—wedi'i wrthdroi'n sylweddol. Yr ydym wedi newid hynny, ac erbyn hyn mae lefel y cynnydd yng Nghymru yn uwch nag yng ngweddill y Deyrnas Unedig. Mae'r dull o fesur tlodi plant drwy gyfrif wedi-cost-tai yn ystyried y ffaith fod y lefel yng Nghymru wedi disgyn ddwywaith mor gyflym â chyfradd lefel y Deyrnas Unedig ers canol y 1990au.

Fodd bynnag, mae'n sicr yn hollol annerbyniol fod tua 180,000 o blant yng Nghymru sy'n byw mewn tlodi cymharol. Yn wyneb y ffaith fod y cynnydd wedi aros yn ei unfan dros y blynyddoedd diwethaf, nid oes rheswm i fod yn hunanfodlon am hyn. Felly, mae'n bwysig i drydedd Llywodraeth y Cynulliad adnewyddu ei hymrwymiad i gyrraedd y targedau a osodwyd gan Lywodraeth y DU, a'u hategu. Mae Llywodraeth y DU hefyd wedi cydnabod bod angen iddi ymdrechu'n galetach, yn enwedig a chofio'r arafu a fu yn y cynnydd. Bydd y cyhoeddiad yn ddiweddar am fudd-daliadau plant a budd-daliadau eraill yng nghyllideb y DU yn gyfraniad sylweddol i gyrraedd y targedau. Gan gydnabod bod teuluoedd heb

workless families are particularly at risk, the UK budget will strengthen practical and financial support for people who cannot work and give support to working families. The official opening today of the Amazon plant in Neath Port-Talbot is a clear indication of the Assembly Government's success in creating job opportunities in Wales.

In terms of the recent measures introduced by the UK Government on child poverty, it has committed an additional £950 million by 2011 to tackle this problem. It is estimated that the initiatives announced in the UK budget in 2007, the pre-budget report and the comprehensive spending review will reduce the number of children in poverty by 0.5 million. To say that the Labour Government, as some have said, has given up on this target is to fly in the face of the evidence.

5.20 p.m.

Eleanor will have noted that, in the budget, child benefit for the first child has gone up to £20 on a universal basis. That answers one of the points that she made in her contribution. Linked to that, the universal increase to £20 in child benefit has been disregarded in relation to housing benefit and council tax benefit claims, targeting, again, as Huw said in his contribution, families on the lowest level of income.

Eleanor is right that to say that poverty is just about income is to understate the challenge. That is why the Assembly Government is taking a three-stranded approach to this. We are focusing on improving life opportunities for children, linked to the measures proposed in the UK through the tax and benefit system, and also thinking about what we can do in Wales on financial inclusion. An example of the type of initiatives that we are promoting is the child trust fund for those who are entering into compulsory education in Wales, with a special additional premium for children from families with the lowest incomes. Equally, we are committed to expanding the support for benefit uptake, which is again something that Eleanor mentioned in her contribution. The £1 million that we have given to the benefit uptake

waith mewn perygl arbennig, bydd cyllideb y DU yn cryfhau cefnogaeth ymarferol ac ariannol i bobl sy'n methu gweithio ac yn cynnig cefnogaeth i deuluoedd sydd yn gweithio. Mae agor gwaith Amazon yn swyddogol yng Nghastell-nedd Port Talbot heddiw yn arwydd clir o lwyddiant Llywodraeth y Cynulliad wrth greu cyfleoedd am swyddi yng Nghymru.

O ran y mesurau'n ddiweddar a gyflwynwyd gan Lywodraeth y DU ar tlodi plant, maent wedi ymrwymo £950 miliwn yn ychwanegol erbyn 2011 i fynd i'r afael â'r broblem hon. Amcangyfrifir y bydd y mentrau a gyhoeddwyd yng nghyllideb y DU yn 2007, yr adroddiad cyn y gyllideb a'r adolygiad cynhwysfawr o wariant yn gostwng nifer y plant sydd mewn tlodi 0.5 miliwn. Mae dweud, fel yr honna rhai, fod y Llywodraeth Lafur wedi rhoi'r gorau i'r targed hwn yn mynd yn hollol groes i'r dystiolaeth.

Bydd Eleanor wedi sylwi, yn y gyllideb, fod budd-dal plant ar gyfer y plentyn cyntaf wedi codi i £20 i bawb. Mae hynny'n ateb un o'r pwyntiau a wnaeth yn ei chyfraniad. Yn gysylltiedig â hynny, ni chafodd y codiad cyffredinol i £20 mewn budd-dal plant ei ystyried yng nghyswllt ceisiadau am fudd-dal tai na budd-dal treth cyngor, gan dargedu unwaith eto, fel y dywedodd Huw yn ei gyfraniad, y teuluoedd ar y lefel incwm isaf.

Mae Eleanor yn gywir pan ddywed mai symleiddio'r her yw honni mai mater o incwm yn unig yw tlodi. Dyna pam mae tair haen i agwedd Llywodraeth y Cynulliad ar hyn. Yr ydym yn canolbwyntio ar wella cyfleoedd bywyd i blant, drwy gysylltu â'r mesurau a gynigir yn y DU drwy'r system dreth a budd-daliadau. Yr ydym hefyd yn meddwl am yr hyn y gallwn ei wneud yng Nghymru ynghylch cynhwysiant ariannol. Enghraifft o'r math o fentrau yr ydym yn eu hybu yw'r gronfa ymddiriedolaeth i blant ar gyfer y rheini sy'n dechrau mewn addysg orfodol yng Nghymru, gyda phremiwm ychwanegol arbennig i blant o deuluoedd ar yr incwm isaf. Yn yr un modd, yr ydym wedi ymrwymo i ehangu'r gefnogaeth i alluogi mwy i hawlio'r budd-daliadau y mae ganddynt hawl iddynt, sydd eto'n bwnc a

scheme, while it concentrates on housing and council tax benefit, will help young families as well as older citizens in Wales.

The Assembly Government has many other programmes designed to combat child poverty and to give our children the best start in life, but it is important that these policies are clearly evidence based. For example, Cymorth supports a wide range of interventions to enhance the life chances of disadvantaged children, and the Flying Start programme and the foundation phase, which we have spoken about at great length today, will also be important contributors to improving life chances. The 14-19 learning pathway will be strengthened as part of the wider Learning and Skills (Wales) Measure 2008, and the recently published consultation document, 'Young People not in Education, Employment or Training', will be a further step in a comprehensive strategy that is needed to tackle child poverty in Wales.

We also need to recognise that there is a spatial aspect to poverty and that some communities are more disadvantaged than others. That is particularly relevant in the context of the consultation that is taking place on Communities Next, which is based on the 140 most deprived communities in Wales. A particular element of the Communities Next consultation is the need for that strategy to concentrate more effectively on economic outcomes and child poverty.

However, we need to recognise, along with the UK Government, that living in a workless family is one of the most significant risks when it comes to child poverty. For example, children living in a workless lone-parent family have a 58 per cent risk of living in poverty; they are therefore at significant risk. A key part of any strategy for addressing child poverty is looking creatively at tackling the problem of workless families. The Assembly Government is committed to working with the Department for Work and Pensions and Jobcentre Plus to look at new initiatives, based on the success of the Want to Work programme, to see what further can

grybwyllodd Eleanor yn ei chyfraniad. Bydd y £1 filiwn a roesom i'r cynllun i hawlio budd-daliadau dyledus, er ei fod yn canolbwyntio ar fudd-dal tai a threth cyngor, yn helpu teuluoedd ifanc yn ogystal â dinasyddion hŷn yng Nghymru.

Mae gan Lywodraeth y Cynulliad nifer o raglenni eraill a fwriadwyd i ymladd tlodi plant ac i roi'r cychwyn gorau mewn bywyd i'n plant, ond mae'n bwysig cael sylfaen glir o dystiolaeth i'r polisiau hyn. Er enghraifft, mae Cymorth yn cefnogi ystod eang o ymyriadau i wella cyfleoedd bywyd i blant dan anfantais, a bydd y rhaglen Dechrau'n Deg a'r cyfnod sylfaen, a grybwyllwyd yn helaeth heddiw, hefyd yn gyfraniadau pwysig i wella cyfleoedd bywyd. Caiff y llwybr dysgu 14-19 ei gryfhau fel rhan o Fesur ehangach Dysgu a Sgiliau (Cymru) 2008, a bydd y ddogfen ymgynghori a gyhoeddwyd yn ddiweddar, 'Pobl Ifanc heb fod mewn Addysg, Gwaith na Hyfforddiant', yn gam pellach mewn strategaeth gynhwysfawr sy'n angenrheidiol i fynd i'r afael â thlodi plant yng Nghymru.

Mae angen inni gydnabod hefyd fod agwedd ofodol i dlodi a bod rhai cymunedau dan fwy o anfantais nag eraill. Mae hynny'n arbennig o berthnasol yng nghyd-destun yr ymgynghori sy'n digwydd ar Gymunedau Nesaf, sy'n seiliedig ar y 140 o gymunedau mwyaf difreintiedig yng Nghymru. Nodwedd arbennig o'r ymgynghori ar Gymunedau Nesaf yw'r angen i'r strategaeth honno ganolbwyntio'n fwy effeithiol ar ddeilliannau economaidd a thlodi plant.

Fodd bynnag, mae angen inni gydnabod, fel y gwna Llywodraeth y DU, mai byw mewn teulu heb waith yw un o'r peryglon mwyaf arwyddocaol pan ddaw'n fater o dlodi plant. Er enghraifft, mae perygl o 58 y cant fod plant sy'n byw mewn teulu un-rhiant heb waith yn byw mewn tlodi; maent felly mewn perygl sylweddol. Mae edrych yn greadigol ar fynd i'r afael â phroblem teuluoedd heb waith yn rhan allweddol o unrhyw strategaeth i ymdrin â thlodi plant. Mae Llywodraeth y Cynulliad wedi ymrwymo i weithio gyda'r Adran Gwaith a Phensiynau a Chanolfan Byd Gwaith i edrych ar fentrau newydd, ar sail llwyddiant y rhaglen Yn Awyddus i Weithio i

be done to tackle worklessness in families.

An indication of that is already available in our commitment to the Genesis II project, which will use European social funds. The initial Genesis project supported over 10,000 beneficiaries in Wales. Genesis II will run over a longer period of time and develop on the basis of good practice and experience gathered from Genesis I. It particularly focuses on women and lone parents who are further from the job market and will be supplemented by sustainable childcare measures to allow them to have a much more realistic opportunity of getting into the job market and tackling what is one of the most fundamental causes of poverty in Wales, namely worklessness.

Equally, I think that it is important, as we move forward, to have a strong evidence base and that is why I was pleased this morning to be able to announce, in a written statement, the membership of the expert group on child poverty, chaired by my colleague, Huw Lewis, whose commitment to this area of work is well known. The expert group will give the Welsh Assembly Government the type of advice and support and, hopefully, critical challenge that is required to ensure that our policies are fit for purpose. It is not just sufficient that we spend the money, or are seen to be spending the money; it is essential that that money is spent wisely to deliver effective outcomes. As everybody has said, these are challenging targets and, as Huw Lewis said in his contribution, it is about delivering social justice and enabling all children in Wales to achieve their potential. That would be good for the capacity and self-achievement of those children, but if we fail to do so, not only will those children be worse off, but so will Wales as a country.

The Deputy Presiding Officer: That brings today's proceedings to a close.

weld beth ymhellach y gellir ei wneud i ymdrin â diffyg gweithio ymhlith teuluoedd.

Mae arwydd o hynny i'w weld eisoes yn ein hymrwymiad i brosiect Genesis II, a fydd yn defnyddio cronfeydd cymdeithasol Ewropeaidd. Cefnogwyd dros 10,000 o bobl gan brosiect cyntaf Genesis yng Nghymru. Bydd Genesis II yn para'n hwy ac yn datblygu ar sail yr arferion da a'r profiad a ddeilliodd o Genesis I. Mae'n canolbwyntio'n arbennig ar fenywod a rhieni sengl sydd ymhellach o'r farchnad swyddi, a chaiff ei hategu gan ddulliau gofal plant cynaliadwy i ganiatáu iddynt gael cyfle mwy realistig o lawer o fynd i'r farchnad swyddi a mynd i'r afael ag un o achosion mwyaf sylfaenol tlodi yng Nghymru, sef diffyg gwaith.

Yn yr un modd, credaf ei bod yn bwysig, wrth inni symud ymlaen, inni gael sylfaen gref o dystiolaeth, a dyna pam yr wyf yn falch y bore yma o allu cyhoeddi, mewn datganiad ysgrifenedig, aelodaeth y grŵp arbenigol ar dlodi plant, dan gadeiryddiaeth fy nghyd-Aelod, Huw Lewis. Mae ei ymrwymiad i'r maes gwaith hwn yn hysbys. Bydd y grŵp arbenigol yn rhoi i Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru y math o gyngor a chefnogaeth, a'r her feirniadol, gobeithio, y mae ei hangen i sicrhau bod ein polisïau'n addas at y diben. Nid yw'n ddigon inni wario'r arian; mae'n hanfodol gwario'r arian yn ddoeth er mwyn sicrhau deilliannau effeithiol. Fel y mae pawb wedi ei ddweud, mae'r rhain yn dargedau heriol, ac fel y dywedodd Huw Lewis yn ei gyfraniad, mae'n fater o sicrhau cyfiawnder cymdeithasol a galluogi pob plentyn yng Nghymru i gyrraedd ei botensial. Byddai hynny'n dda i alluoedd a llwyddiant y plant hynny, ond os methwn wneud hyn, nid yn unig y plant hynny fydd yn waeth eu byd, ond Cymru hefyd fel gwlad.

Y Dirprwy Lywydd: Daw hynny â chyfarfod heddiw i ben.

*Daeth y cyfarfod i ben am 5.26 p.m.
The meeting ended at 5.26 p.m.*

**Aelodau a'u Pleidiau
Members and their Parties**

Andrews, Leighton (Llafur – Labour)
 Asghar, Mohammad (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 Barrett, Lorraine (Llafur – Labour)
 Bates, Mick (Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru – Welsh Liberal Democrats)
 Black, Peter (Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru – Welsh Liberal Democrats)
 Bourne, Nick (Ceidwadwyr Cymreig – Welsh Conservatives)
 Burnham, Eleanor (Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru – Welsh Liberal Democrats)
 Burns, Angela (Ceidwadwyr Cymreig – Welsh Conservatives)
 Butler, Rosemary (Llafur – Labour)
 Cairns, Alun (Ceidwadwyr Cymreig – Welsh Conservatives)
 Chapman, Christine (Llafur – Labour)
 Cuthbert, Jeff (Llafur – Labour)
 Davidson, Jane (Llafur – Labour)
 Davies, Alun (Llafur – Labour)
 Davies, Andrew (Llafur – Labour)
 Davies, Andrew R.T. (Ceidwadwyr Cymreig – Welsh Conservatives)
 Davies, Jocelyn (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 Davies, Paul (Ceidwadwyr Cymreig – Welsh Conservatives)
 Elis-Thomas, Dafydd (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 Evans, Nerys (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 Franks, Chris (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 German, Michael (Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru – Welsh Liberal Democrats)
 Graham, William (Ceidwadwyr Cymreig – Welsh Conservatives)
 Gregory, Janice (Llafur – Labour)
 Griffiths, John (Llafur – Labour)
 Griffiths, Lesley (Llafur – Labour)
 Gibbons, Brian (Llafur – Labour)
 Hart, Edwina (Llafur – Labour)
 Hutt, Jane (Llafur – Labour)
 Isherwood, Mark (Ceidwadwyr Cymreig – Welsh Conservatives)
 James, Irene (Llafur – Labour)
 Jenkins, Bethan (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 Jones, Alun Ffred (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 Jones, Ann (Llafur – Labour)
 Jones, Carwyn (Llafur – Labour)
 Jones, Elin (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 Jones, Gareth (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 Jones, Helen Mary (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 Jones, Ieuan Wyn (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 Law, Trish (Annibynnol – Independent)
 Lewis, Huw (Llafur – Labour)
 Lloyd, David (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 Lloyd, Val (Llafur – Labour)
 Melding, David (Ceidwadwyr Cymreig – Welsh Conservatives)
 Mewies, Sandy (Llafur – Labour)
 Millar, Darren (Ceidwadwyr Cymreig – Welsh Conservatives)
 Morgan, Jonathan (Ceidwadwyr Cymreig – Welsh Conservatives)
 Morgan, Rhodri (Llafur – Labour)
 Neagle, Lynne (Llafur – Labour)
 Ramsay, Nick (Ceidwadwyr Cymreig – Welsh Conservatives)
 Randerson, Jenny (Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru – Welsh Liberal Democrats)
 Ryder, Janet (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 Sargeant, Carl (Llafur – Labour)
 Sinclair, Karen (Llafur – Labour)
 Thomas, Gwenda (Llafur – Labour)
 Thomas, Rhodri Glyn (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
 Watson, Joyce (Llafur – Labour)
 Williams, Brynle (Ceidwadwyr Cymreig – Welsh Conservatives)
 Williams, Kirsty (Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru – Welsh Liberal Democrats)
 Wood, Leanne (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)