

**Gwybodaeth Ychwanegol at y Cyfarfod Llawn
Information Further to Plenary**

Cyhoeddir ymatebion yn yr iaith y'u darparwyd, gyda chyfieithiad Saesneg o ymatebion yn y Gymraeg.

Responses are published in the language in which they are provided, with a translation into English of responses provided in Welsh.

**Gwybodaeth ychwanegol at OAQ(4)0164(HRH) a gyhoeddwyd gan Huw Lewis, y
Gweinidog Tai, Adfywio a Threftadaeth, ar 19 Hydref 2012
Information further to OAQ(4)0164(HRH) issued by Huw Lewis, the Minister for
Housing, Regeneration and Housing, on 19 October 2012**

At/To Peter Black:

Thank you for your email of 17 October. I thought it might be helpful to clarify the difference between the £108 million and £73 million.

During this week's question time I advised Members that the Welsh Government invests £108 million per year to support the work towards meeting the Welsh Housing Quality Standard. I confirm that this budget has been protected in full and is used to pay major repairs allowance to local authorities and dowry to LSVT organisations.

I also referred to the continuing negotiations with the UK Government where we are seeking to abolish the Housing Revenue Account Subsidy (HRAS) system in Wales, as it has been in England. As a result of the HRAS, £73 million is collected from Welsh local authorities and returned to the UK Government each year. I want to see an end to this transfer of revenues and suggested that you contact your colleagues in Westminster to seek an early resolution to this issue so that Wales is able to invest in the quality of our local authority housing stock.

**Gwybodaeth ychwanegol at OAQ(4)0177(HRH) a gyhoeddwyd gan Huw Lewis, y
Gweinidog Tai, Adfywio a Threftadaeth, ar 06 Tachwedd 2012
Information further to OAQ(4)0177(HRH) issued by Huw Lewis, the Minister for
Housing, Regeneration and Housing, on 06 November 2012**

At/To Paul Davies:

I refer to the question you raised during Plenary on 17 October regarding the New Bridge Meadow Stadium in Haverfordwest being used to host matches as part of next year's UEFA's Women's Under 19's Football Tournament.

My officials have contacted the FAW who report that the New Bridge Meadow Stadium in Haverfordwest was originally listed as one of the venues put forward by the FAW to UEFA (the governing body of football in Europe) to host tournament matches. Furthermore, to help raise the profile of the tournament the FAW also held a road show at the New Bridge Meadow Stadium last year to encourage people to volunteer and take part in the event.

However UEFA officials have since visited all the facilities that were proposed by the FAW and informed them that although the New Bridge Meadow Stadium is of a suitable standard it was felt that it was located too far away from the tournament base in Swansea. As a result there will be a series of matches played at football grounds in Carmarthen, Llanelli, Bridgend and Swansea. The FAW do not intend challenging the decision made by UEFA.

The FAW feel that the New Bridge Meadow Stadium remains a very important venue and they hope to use the ground in future representative events.

I hope this clarifies the position.

**Gwybodaeth ychwanegol at OAQ(4)0167(HRH) a gyhoeddwyd gan Huw Lewis, y
Gweinidog Tai, Adfywio a Threftadaeth, Hydref 2012
Information further to OAQ(4)0167(HRH) issued by Huw Lewis, the Minister for
Housing, Regeneration and Housing, October 2012**

At/To Suzy Davies:

I am writing to you following the Assembly Question asked by Jenny Rathbone AM during Plenary on 17 October, and your subsequent supplementary question in connection with crowdfunding and the publishing industry in Wales.

Firstly, I should like to clarify that the prime agency in Wales for supporting publishing in Wales is the Welsh Books Council, rather than Literature Wales which is the national organisation responsible for developing and promoting literature. The Welsh Books Council is directly funded by the Welsh Government and will receive funding of £4.005 million during 2012-13.

I am grateful to you for raising awareness of crowdfunding as a potential means of alternative funding. It certainly enables individuals to utilise digital technology in order to encourage investment in new ideas or projects. Advocates of crowdfunding may say that it allows good ideas which do not fit the criteria of conventional funders to succeed and attract the funds they need. However, it is not without its risks; for example, the business idea must be made public at a very early stage which carries the risk that the idea can be copied and developed more quickly by better financed competitors.

Another risk is that there are limited checks on the integrity of the people seeking investment, making fraud a greater risk than in traditional areas of investment. It should also be noted that the operation of this type of web-site is not regulated within the UK.

The greatest risk, perhaps, is that the model appears to contravene investor protection legislation in a number of jurisdictions, including the UK's Financial Services & Markets Act which is enforced by the Financial Services Authority (FSA). The FSA emphasises that investors in a crowdfunded project have little or no protection if the business or project fails, and that they will probably lose all their investment if it does.

Under the current circumstances, the reputational risk to the Welsh Government, and the Welsh Government Sponsored Bodies, being seen to encourage, support or establish activities which are not compliant with current consumer protection legislation is significant and not acceptable. Accordingly it would be for the individual to assess risks in considering using crowdfunding as a potential alternative source of funding.

**Gwybodaeth ychwanegol at OAQ(4)0167(HRH) a gyhoeddwyd gan Huw Lewis, y
Gweinidog Tai, Adfywio a Threftadaeth, 24 Hydref 2012
Information further to OAQ(4)0167(HRH) issued by Huw Lewis, the Minister for
Housing, Regeneration and Housing, 24 October 2012**

At yr Holl Aelodau/To All Members:

Yn ysdod Dadl y Ceidwadwyr Cymreig ar Wasanaethau Plant ar 17 Hydref, amlygwyd nifer o bwyntiau am rai agweddau o raglan Dechrau'n Deg, yn ymwneud yn benodol â thargedau a hyblygrwydd y rhaglen. Codwyd materion hefyd ynglŷn â sut mae canfyddiadau'r gwerthusiad yn cael eu symud ymlaen gydag ehangu.

Hoffwn ymateb I'r pwyntiau hyn er mwyn rhoi ychydig o wybodaeth ychwanegol i chi a gosod y materion hyn yn eu cyd-destun cywir.

Newid bywydau pobl yw sail ein rhaglen Dechrau'n Deg a dyna pam mae mor bwysig i'r Llywodraeth hon. Lansiwyd Dechrau'n Deg yn 2006 mewn ymateb o'r dystiolaeth gynyddol o bwysigrwydd blynyddoedd cynnar bywyd plentyn i'w ganlyniadau yn y dyfodol. Mae Dechrau'n Deg yn defnyddio dull amlasiantaethol ac amllddisgyblaethol a'r nod yw cynorthwyo plant a theuluoedd sydd ymlith yr anoddaf eu cyrraedd. Mae'r rhaglen wedi'i thargedu at deuluoedd yn rhai o ardaloedd mwyaf difreintiedig yng Nghymru a'i nod yw gwella canlyniadau plant drwy ddarparu amrywiaeth o wasanaethau allweddol.

Rydym ni eisioes wedi gwneud ymrwymiad i ddyblu nifer y plant a'u teuluoedd sy'n cael budd o raglan Dechrau'n Deg sydd yn adlewyrchu ein cred nad oes blaenoriaeth uwch na sicrhau bod plant a phobl ifanc y mae eu bywydau wedi'u heffeithio gan tlodi yn cael yr un cyfleuoedd mewn bywyd â phawb arall yng Nghymru. I gydnabod hyn rydym ni eisioes wedi dyrannu £74 miliwn yn ychwanegol i gwrdd â'r ymrwymiad hwn, sy'n cynrychioli byddsoddiad sylweddol o ran trechu tlodi plant.

Dechreuodd y rhaglen estynedig ym mis Ebrill 2012 ac mae wedi'i thargedu gan ddefnyddio data bydd-dal incwm, sy'n ddangosydd procsi ar gyfer tlodi. Yn benodol mae'n cael ei thargedu mewn ardaloedd â'r cyfraddau uchaf o blant dan bedair oed yn byw mewn cartrefi sy'n derbyn budd-dal incwm. Mae'r ardaloedd hyn wedi'i dynode drwy ddefnyddio data'r Adran Gwaith a Phensiynau a Chyllid a Thollau EM. Mae pwysigrwydd a gwerth gwybodaeth leol wedi'u cydnabod o fewn y broses o ddiffinio meysydd targed newydd ac mae fy swyddogion yn gweithio'n agos â'r holl Awdurdodau Lleol i sicrhau bod cyllid yn yr ardaloedd hynny yn cyrraedd y sawl sydd â'r angen mwyaf.

Rydym ni'n gweithio'n barhaus i wella gwasanaeth Dechrau'n Deg a darparucymorth i'r gweithlu sy'n ehangu. Cyhoeddwyd arweiniad strategol newydd ym mis Ebrill eleni sy'n gosod pwyslais ar gydweithio a darparu gwasanaeth amlasiantaethol. Mae'r rhaglen estynedig yn caniatâu peth hyblygrwydd o fewn yr elfennau craidd yn enwedig pan fydd lleoliadau gofal plant yn cael eu dyrannu i rieni sy'n gweithio. Caiff hyblygrwydd ei ddefnyddio hefyd gyda gofal plant yn ystod gwyliau haf yr ysgolion drwy fabwysiadu agwedd ehangach at gynorthwyo'r teulu cyfan yn hytrach na'r plentyn yn unig.

Fel yr esboniais i yn ystod y ddadl, fel Llywodraeth ddatganoledig, mae'n rhaid i ni weithio o fewn neid hadnoddau, on der eu bod yn gydnygedig, mae'n bwysigfod ein hadnoddau yn cael eu defnyddio'n llawn i gyflenwi'r budd gorau posibl i blant difreintiedig. Fel rhan o'n hymrwymiad i ddyblu cwmpas y rhaglen, rydym ni wedi cyflwyno elfen o waith allgymorth o 2012 ymlaen. Mae hyn hefyd yn caniatâu peth hyblygrwydd o fewn y rhaglen a bydd yn golygu y bydd mwy fyth o blant a theuluoedd yn gallu cyrraedd at y cymorth sydd ei angen arnnt, hyd yn oed os ydynt yn byw y tu allan i ardaloedd targed y rhaglen.

I gefnogi'r ehangu rydym ni ar hyn o bryd yn gweithio gydag Awdurdodau Lleol a Byrddau Iechyd Lleol i hyfforddi a recriwtio rhagor o ymwelwryiechyd dan hyfforddiant eleni. Mae Ymwelwyr Iechyd yn allweddol i gyflenwi Dechrau'n Deg, ac mae iddynt swyddogaeth hanfodol yn targedu'r teuluoedd anoddaf eu cyrraedd ac adnabod plant ag anghenion ychwanegol a chymleth yn gynnar.

I sicrhau dysgu effeithil, mae Dechrau'n Deg yn destun gwerthusiad trylwyr ac annibynnol. Mae'n gwerthuso trylwyr yn allweddol i sicrhau bod ein rhaglenni'n cael effaith ac roeddwn ni'n croesawu cyhoeddi *Canfyddiadau arolwg sylfaenol o deuluoedd*, a gyhoeddwyd ym mis Rhagfyr 2011, ac sy'n rhan o'r sail ehangach o dystiolaeth ar gyfer Dechrau'n Deg ac yn rhan o werthusiad parhaus y rhaglen.

Fe wyddom for Dechrau'n Deg yn gweithio a'i fod yn dechrau newid bywydau pobl. Mae gennym dystiolaeth ansoddol gyson gan ymarferwyr a rhieni sy'n dangos ei bod yn gwneud gwahaniaeth i fywydau plant a'u teuluoedd, a byddwn yn parhau i ddysgu o'r dystiolaeth sy'n cael ei chreu drwy'r gwerthusiad cenedlaethol.

Er mwyn cynorthwyo'r dysgu a'r twf hwn rydym no wedi cyflwyno fframwaith monitor trylwyr i asesu a gyrru perfformiad awdurdodau lleol yn ei flaen. Maedwyddogion hefyd wedi mabwysiadu dull mwy rhagweithiol o weithio gyda meysydd unigol ac mae hyn wedi cryfhau'r ffyrdd o weithio ac mae'n creu dysgu sylweddol yn barhaus o gwmpas heriau lleol a meysydd o ymarfer da.

Yn ystod gwanwyn 2013 byddwn yn cyhoeddi ail don yr arolwg hydredol. Ar yr yn pryd, byddwn ni hefyd yn cyhoeddi canfyddiadau o ymchwil ansoddol gyda theuluoedd sydd wedi profi Dechrau'n Deg. Bydd y ddau ddarn pwysig hyn o waith yn archwilio defnydd a phrofiad o Dechrau'n Deg ac yn darparu tystiolaeth bellach am ei effaith ar ymddygiad rhieni a datblygiad plant.

Rwyf i'n gobeithio sicrhau Aelodau bod ein buddsoddiad yn rhaglen Dechrau'n Deg yn dangos ymrwymiad diwyro Llywodraeth Cymru i fynd i'r afael ag effeithiau tlodi plant.

During the Welsh Conservatives Debate on Children's Services on the 17th October, a number of points were highlighted about certain aspects of Flying Start, relating in particular to targeting and the flexibility of the programme. Issues were also raised about how the findings of the evaluation are being taken forward with expansion.

I wish to respond to these points made in order to provide you with some further information and to put the issues in their proper context.

Changing people's lives is the basis of our Flying Start programme which is why it is so important to this Government. We launched Flying Start in 2006 in response to the growing evidence of how important the early years of a child's life are for their future outcomes. Flying Start provides both a multiagency and multidisciplinary approach that aims to support children and families in some of the most deprived areas of Wales and aims to improve child outcomes through the provision of a range of key services.

We have already made a commitment to double the number of children and their families benefiting from Flying Start which reflects our belief that we can have no higher priority than ensuring children and young people whose lives are affected by poverty have the same chances in life as everyone else in Wales. In recognition of this, we have already allocated an additional £74 million to meet the commitment, which represents a significant investment in tackling child poverty.

The expanded programme commenced in April 2012 and is targeted using income benefit data, which is a proxy indicator for poverty. Specifically, it is being targeted in areas with the highest proportions of children under four years of age living in income benefit households. These areas have been identified using data from the Department of Working Pensions and HM Revenue and Customs. The importance and value of local knowledge has been recognised within the process and defining new target areas and my officials are working

closely with all Local Authorities to ensure that, within these areas, funding reaches those who are most in need of support.

We are continually working to improve the Flying Start service and to provide support to the expanding workforce. New strategic guidance was issued in April this year and places an emphasis on working together providing a multi agency approach. The expanded programme allows for some flexibility within the core elements especially when working parents are allocated childcare placements. Flexibility is also applied to childcare during the school summer holidays by taking a wider approach to support the whole family and not just the child.

As I explained during the debate, as a devolved Government, we have to work within our resources but, whilst they are limited, it is important that our resources are fully exploited to deliver the maximum benefit for disadvantaged children. As part of our commitment to double the reach of the programme, we have introduced an element of outreach work from 2012. This allows some flexibility within the programme and will mean that even more children and families will be able to access the support they need, even if they live outside the programme's target areas.

The support expansion, we are currently working with Local Authorities and Local Health Boards to train and recruit further trainee health visitors this year. Health Visitors are key to the delivery of Flying Start, and have a crucial role in targeting the hardest to reach families and the early identification of children with additional and complex needs.

To ensure effective learning, Flying Start is subject to rigorous independent evaluation. Thorough evaluation is key to ensuring that our programmes are making an impact and we welcomed the publication of the *Findings from the baseline survey of families*, which was published in December 2011, and which is part of the wider evidence base for Flying Start and part of the ongoing evaluation of the programme.

We know that Flying Start works and that it is starting to change people's lives. We have consistent qualitative evidence from practitioners and parents that shows that it is making a difference to the lives of children and their families, and we will continue to learn from the evidence being generated by the national evaluation.

To support this learning and growth, we have implemented a rigorous monitoring framework to assess and drive forward local authority performance. Officials have also adopted a more pro-active approach to work with individual areas and this has strengthened the ways of working and is continually generating substantial learning around the local challenges and areas of good practice.

In spring 2013 we will publish the second wave of the longitudinal survey. At the same time, we will also publish the findings from qualitative research with families who have experienced Flying Start. These two important pieces of work will explore both use and experience of Flying Start. These two important pieces of work will explore both use and experience of Flying Start and provide further evidence of its impact on parenting behaviours and child development.

I hope that Members will be reassured that our investment in Flying Start programme clearly demonstrates the Welsh Government's unwavering commitment to addressing the effects of child poverty.